



# Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative

## Environmental Scan

October 7, 2013

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## Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the Environmental Scan for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative. The main objective of the Environmental Scan is to inventory and evaluate existing policies and services for youth who are leaving the foster care system, recommend services that might be networked together, find gaps in support services, and explore new opportunities for foster care alumni to move on to higher education and life-long success.

There are now more than 14,000 children living in foster care in Arizona. Every year more than 700 teenagers “age-out” of the foster care system, meaning they have reached their 18th birthday without finding a permanent family. Without a family to turn to for support, many of them will face a high probability of poverty, unemployment, incarceration and homelessness.

For the past 25 years, Children’s Action Alliance has been a voice for children and youth served by Arizona’s child welfare system and successfully advocated for legislation and policies to support youth transitioning from foster care. Examples include extended foster care and health coverage until age 21 and a tuition waiver bill for current and former foster youth to attend state universities and community colleges.

Children’s Action Alliance is grateful to the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for funding and supporting this effort. The Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative will benefit from numerous community partnerships and consultation from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a national foundation working currently in 15 sites around the country. Together we will work to strengthen systems that help youth leaving foster care overcome challenges and find better opportunities and improve outcomes. The Initiative will include the voices of the real experts, young people now living in foster care and young adults who grew up in the foster care system.

The Environmental Scan will provide the foundation for developing the implementation plan for Arizona with our partners to strengthen and expand opportunities for youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this important effort and commend them for their careful and diligent work on behalf of Arizona youth.



Dana Wolfe Naimark  
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We also thank and acknowledge the 76 young adults and more than 400 staff and volunteers from many agencies and individuals serving youth transitioning from foster care who contributed to this effort through interviews, focus groups, surveys and Planning Team meetings.

This project was generously supported by grants from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations Used in the Report

ADES-DCYF- Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division for Children, Youth and Families  
ADES-DDD- Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Developmental Disabilities  
AOC-DCSD Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children's Services Division  
ACLPI-Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest  
ADHS-Arizona Department of Health Services  
ADHS-DBHS-Arizona Department of Health Services- Division of Behavioral Health Services  
ADJC-Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections  
AHCCCS-Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System  
AFFCF-Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation  
AzCA-Arizona's Children Association  
ARS §-Arizona Revised Statutes  
ASAP-Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
ASU-Arizona State University  
AWEE-Arizona Women's Education and Employment  
BHR-behavioral health recipients  
CAA-Children's Action Alliance  
CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates  
CHILDS-ADES-DCYF Database  
CIS-Client Information System  
CMDP- Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program  
CPSA-Community Partnership of Southern Arizona  
CPS-Child Protective Services  
CJJR-Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute  
CPSS-Child Protective Services Specialists  
CY-Calendar Year  
DAP-Determining Another Path  
DD-developmental disabilities  
EPDST-Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment  
ET-Education and Training Voucher Program  
FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
FC2S-Foster Care To Success  
FCRB-Foster Care Review Board  
FEFE-Family Economics and Financial Education  
FERPA-Family Education Rights and Privacy Act  
FHFA-Federal Housing Finance Agency  
FUP-Family Unification Program  
FFY-Federal Fiscal Year  
FRP-Arizona Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project  
FY-Fiscal Year  
GED-General Education Equivalent Diploma High School equivalency program  
GOCYF-Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families  
GSA-geographical service areas  
HB-House Bill  
GAL-Guardian ad Litem  
HUD FHA-US Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing Administration  
HYAP-Housing Arizona Youth Project  
IDA-Individual Development Account  
IDEA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
IGA-Inter-governmental agreement  
ILP-AYAP-Independent Living Program (Arizona Young Adult Program)  
ILSP-Independent Living Subsidy Program

ITCA-Intertribal Council of Arizona  
RFP-Request for Proposal  
JFCS-Jewish Family and Children's Services  
JPO-Juvenile Probation Office  
LGBT-Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender  
MIKID-Mentally Ill Kids in Distress  
MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area  
MYLIFE-Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment  
NARBHA-Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority  
NAC- Native American Connections  
NOM-National Outcomes Measures  
NYTD-National Youth in Transition Database  
OCWI-Office of Child Welfare Investigations  
PAFCO-Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition  
RBHAs-Regional Behavioral Health Authorities  
SB-Senate Bill  
SAMSHA-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
SFY-State Fiscal Year  
SPARC-State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center  
SSBG-Social Services Block Grant  
STEM-science, technology, engineering and math  
TRBHA-Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority  
START-Supported Transitional Apartments, Resources, and Training  
TANF-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
TILP-Transitional Independent Living Program  
TXIX/TXXI -Medicaid  
TIP-Transition to Independence Program  
UCEDD-University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
U.S.-United States  
USA-Uninterrupted Scholars Act  
VAWA-Violence Against Women Act  
VR-ADES Vocational Rehabilitation  
WIA-Workforce Investment Act services  
YATI-Young Adult Transition Insurance

## **Executive Summary**

### **Introduction to the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative**

The challenges faced by Arizona's youth aging out of foster care to adulthood are great. Over the past two decades Arizona established a myriad of laws, policies, programs, agencies and services designed to assist youth with transition. Although many youth have benefitted from these efforts, more needs to be done to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for young people transitioning out of foster care in Arizona.

For the past decade, the national Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative has worked in selected states to improve policies and practices, promote youth engagement, apply evaluation and research, and create community partnerships to ensure that young people make successful transitions from foster care. By creating a range of opportunities for young people in the core work of state child welfare departments and other public agencies, youth are more prepared for successful adulthood.

With the leadership and support of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Arizona is poised to become a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative site. In an effort to continuously improve and enhance programs and services available to youth transitioning out of Arizona's foster care system, Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is serving as the lead agency for our state's effort - the Arizona Youth Opportunity Initiative. CAA has a longstanding history of more than 25 years working collaboratively with systems of care (e.g. child welfare, education, mental health, juvenile justice, adult services, and labor) to improve the well-being of Arizona's vulnerable children and youth, especially those in the child welfare system. CAA has the capacity, willingness and conviction to work with youth in foster care, alumni of foster care, and public and private agencies.

The first step forward in becoming a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative site is determining whether Arizona is ready and prepared to do this work. Over the past six months, key stakeholders representing state and community agencies, service sectors supporting youth, and young people with first-hand experience in foster care have been involved in gathering information for the Environmental Scan. This comprehensive assessment highlights the current conditions for youth transitioning out of Arizona's foster care system, and sets the stage for the next step in the process, a three-year Implementation Plan focused on improving outcomes for youth transitioning from foster care to independence.

The Environmental Scan outline is provided by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and includes Arizona specific information on our Capacity to Plan and Demographics. In addition, Jim Casey's five core strategies were reviewed in consideration of improving outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care. These strategies include: Youth Engagement, Partnerships and Resources, Research, Evaluation and Communication, Public Will and Policy, and Increased Opportunities. Through focused attention on these Jim Casey core strategies, the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative is poised to work to improve conditions for youth in the following outcome areas:

- *Permanence*
- *Education*
- *Employment*
- *Financial Capability*

- *Housing*
- *Physical and Mental Health*
- *Social Capital*

## Capacity to Plan

Over the past 30 years, Arizona has surpassed many states in our progressive and innovative policies supporting youth transitioning from foster care. Within the child welfare framework, the Arizona Department of Economic Security - Division of Children Youth and Families (ADES - DCYF) provides and or contracts for services to support older youth in foster care and those who have exited foster care. Programs are designed to help youth make a successful transition to adulthood. The major program components are outlined in the following matrix:

ADES-DCYF TRANSITIONING YOUTH PROGRAMS	AGE OF ELIGIBILITY									
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 & 25	
<p><b>Independent Living Program (ILP)</b> - Any youth 16 years of age or older, in custody of the ADES, in an out-of-home placement and who will most likely age-out of foster care. Youth is eligible to receive specialized case management services, focusing on independent living and self-sufficiency skills up to age 21. ADES Case Managers provide case supervision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Voluntary Placement Agreement</b> - Youth in the custody of ADES at age 18 may sign a Voluntary Placement Agreement to remain in care. Youth can continue in care up to age 21 if case plan requirements are met.</li> <li>• <b>Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)</b> - Youth placed in the custody of ADES. If age 17, youth must meet program eligibility and be approved for ILSP by ADES and by the Juvenile Court. Youth age 18 and over must meet program eligibility, but court approval is not required. Youth are eligible up to age 21 and receive a monthly stipend to help cover living costs and expenses and may live in unlicensed housing (e.g. apartment, dormitory, etc.) as long as youth's case plan requirements are met.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X					
	<b>1572 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									
				X	X	X				
	<b>602 Youth Participants in FFY 2012</b>									
		X	X	X	X					
<b>451 Youth Participants in FY 2012</b>										
<p><b>Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)</b> - Former foster youth from any public or Tribal child welfare agency who were in out-of-home placement when age 16, 17, or 18. Youth are eligible to receive specialized case management services in Arizona, through a community contractor (i.e. Arizona's Children Association) focusing on independent living and self-sufficiency skills up to age 21. Some financial support may be available.</p>			X	X	X					
	<b>221 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									
<b>Additional Support Services</b>										
<p><b>Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)</b> - Current and former foster youth from any public or Tribal child welfare agency who were in out-of-home care when age 16, 17, or 18. Youth may be eligible for up to \$5,000 of post-secondary educational assistance up to age 23.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	<b>309 Youth Participants in SFY 2012</b>									
<p><b>Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI)</b> - Current and former foster youth in the custody of the ADES and who turn 18 while in Arizona foster care. Youth are eligible for a qualifying AHCCCS health plan regardless of income status up to age 21 (up to age 26 as of 1-1-2014).</p>			X	X	X					
	<b>613 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									

**Note:** FFY 2012-Federal Fiscal Year-October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012; CY 2012-Calendar Year 2012-January 1-December 31, 2012; SFY 2012- State Fiscal Year-July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012.

**Source of Data:** Adapted from Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2011 and 2012*. Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports –October 1,2011-March 31,2012, p. 34 and April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012*, Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Email communication from Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 6.21.2013.

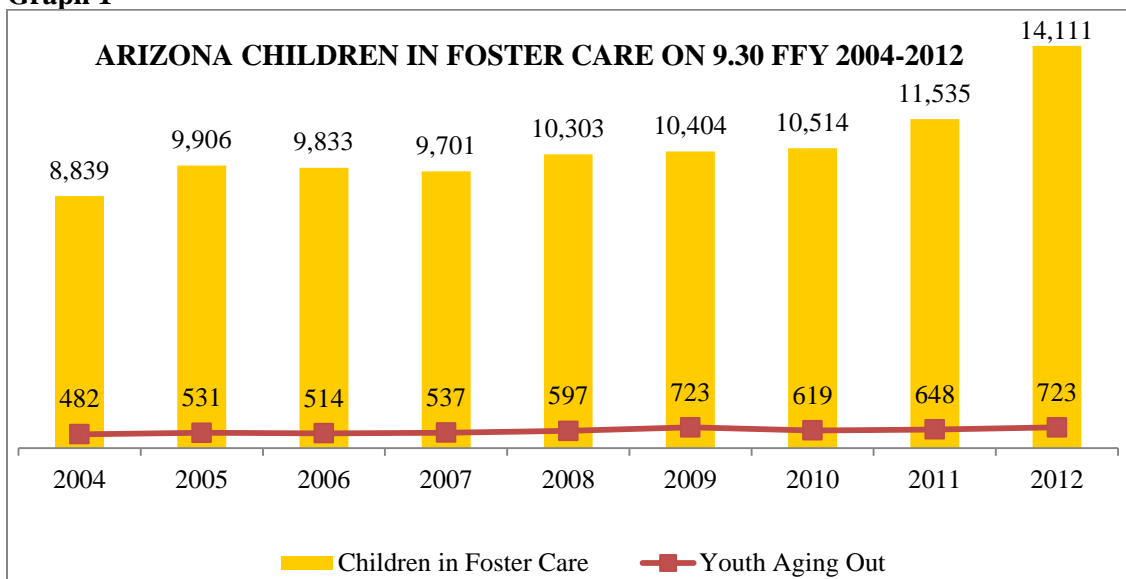
Legislation, policies and program components put in place beginning in 1983 include: establishing specialized case management units within ADES-DCYF to work specifically with youth transitioning from foster care to independence; providing an Independent Living Subsidy Program that allows eligible youth at age 17 to receive monthly funding to transition from a structured living environment such as a licensed foster or group home to an alternative living arrangement such as an apartment or college dormitory; extending voluntary foster care for youth over the age of 18 up to age 21; providing programmatic and limited financial support for youth who have left foster care through the Transitional Independent Living Program; extending AHCCCS health insurance coverage to youth in foster care who turn 18 until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday without regard to income (and up to their 26<sup>st</sup> birthday as of January 2014); and just in this past legislative session of 2013, establishing a five year pilot program that provides a tuition waiver for eligible current and former foster youth who attend state universities or community colleges.

### Demographics

On September 30, 2012, there were 14,111 children in foster care in Arizona, a 44% increase since 2003. Approximately 24% or 3,392 are between the ages of 14-21. This population included 602 youth, ages 18-21 participating in voluntary or extended foster care.

As Graph 1 indicates, the number of older youth exiting Arizona’s foster care to Independent Living continues to rise as well. In FFY 2012, 723 young adults aged 18 and older left care, compared to 428 in 2004. While many services are made available to transitioning youth, the number of youth participating in those programs and their outcomes still raise concern for Arizona.

**Graph 1**



NOTE: Children in Foster Care on 9.30.2012, Youth Aging Out Reflect Number of Youth over 12 month period (FFY 2012).

## Youth Outcomes

In Arizona, the number of youth in foster care has almost doubled in the past decade. Although ADES-DCYF is trying to increase the availability of foster families for older youth, as youth get older while in foster care, the likelihood of being placed in a family-setting diminishes and the percentage of youth living in congregant care increases steadily. As Chart 1 indicates, in FFY 2012, almost 40% of youth age 14-21 who were in foster care were living in either a group home or residential treatment center.

**Chart 1**

ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 14 YEARS AND OLDER BY PLACEMENT TYPE ON 9.30.2012								
Age	Relative	Family Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Treatment	Independent Living	Runaway	Trial Home Visit	Total
14	160	163	131	61	0	24	1	540
15	149	203	190	94	0	41	5	682
16	159	196	240	114	3	62	4	778
17	126	183	255	116	9	98	3	790
<b>Total 14-17</b>	594	745	816	385	12	225	13	2790
<b>Percent of Total 14-17</b>	21%	27%	29%	14%	0%	8%	0%	100%
<b>18 &amp; older</b>	27	79	56	88	313	38	1	602
<b>Percent of Total 18 &amp; Older</b>	18%	24%	26%	14%	10%	8%	0%	100%
<b>Total 14&amp; Older</b>	621	824	872	473	325	263	14	3392

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012*, p.42.

Despite Arizona having a number of programs and services available to transitioning age youth, youth are not fully engaging in services available. Of the approximate 1,990 youth who exited care from FFY 2010 through 2012 on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and could presumably be eligible for services, only 602 youth were in extended care through a Voluntary Placement agreement on September 30th, 2012. Of these youth, 451 were enrolled in the Independent Living Subsidy Program. Similarly, for the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) program administered through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), there were only 613 youth enrolled during the course of 2012. Much work is needed to communicate the existing opportunities and expand and support these vulnerable youth.

Current efforts in Arizona and opportunities needed to enhance outcomes for youth leaving foster care are summarized as follows:

### Permanence

**Successes:** During FFY 2012, 1,504 children between the ages of 13-17 exited care. Of these, 929 were reunited with family, 206 were adopted, 238 were placed in a permanent family

guardianship; while 723 youth aged 18 and older exited foster care without a permanent family to call their own.

Examples of successes to increase permanency for children in foster care include the effort of Casey Family Programs working with ADES-DCYF to assist youth with making legal and permanent connections and placements through Permanency Roundtables which are focused brain-storming sessions. The Roundtables are intended to develop an innovative and realistic plan that improves the permanency status of youth in short time frames.

Through a federal grant that was recently discontinued, the Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) had initiated two interventions; the 3-5-7 Model, which prepares children for life with a new family and focuses on activities that help them work through the grief and loss surrounding biological family; and the Family Finding Model, a method that utilizes tools to locate and contact extended family members to consider as potential resources for youth. While the federal grant project was closed out in January 2013, AzCA continues to work with ADES-DCYF staff to find ways to implement these practices with transitioning youth in Maricopa County.

Following the enactment of federal Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (H.R. 3443 aka the John Chafee Act), CAA working in coordination with ADES, successfully advocated for the passage of legislation in 2000 that implemented components of the new federal law. It eliminated the prohibition of foster care services to youth under 21 who had received a high school diploma or GED. It established the TILP to provide a variety of services. A youth up to age 21 may now receive residential, ILSP and other support services if in the ILSP or in an out-of-home placement under a voluntary placement or a dependency action when turning age 18. A youth up to age 21 may receive a variety of support services if in state custody before turning 18. Court jurisdiction for all dependent and delinquent youth in Arizona ends at age 18. There is no requirement with the passage of this legislation in 2000 that the juvenile court oversee the cases of dependent youth who voluntarily agree to remain in foster care or be in the ILSP beyond the age of 18.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** Youth in Arizona's foster care system are much more likely to be placed in congregant care living placements than with a relative or foster family as they increase in age. In FFY 2012, 1345 or 39.6% of youth age 14 to 21 were either living in a group home or a residential treatment center. Almost 8% or 263 youth were documented as runaways from foster care. In the same year, 723 youth aged out of foster care system in Arizona without achieving permanence.

For youth aging out of care, connections to both formal and informal supports are critical. This could include safe connections with biological family members, including siblings and parents, connections with caring adult allies and mentors, as well as peers. Youth interviewed by the Initiative stressed the need to have frequent contact with their CPS Specialist (CPSS) and access to them via email and phone. Communication with CPSS is vital to decisions such as contact with family members, friends and placements. Youth anxious over placements or decisions regarding what will happen when they reach age 18 wanted more frequent access to their CPSS to discuss housing and placement options. Youth emphasized the importance of biological family and the desire to find and strengthen relationships after they exit care.

Court jurisdiction for all dependent and delinquent youth in Arizona ends at age 18. The 2008 federal Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893/P.L. 110-351) allows states to draw down additional federal Title IV-E dollars for extended voluntary foster care or ILSP if there is court or administrative oversight of the case. Arizona should explore the fiscal

and programmatic opportunity to draw down these additional resources in support of this population of youth.

## **Education**

**Successes:** Youth transitioning out of Arizona's foster care system have some targeted educational services available to them. Two ADES-DCYF Education Specialists assist CPS Specialists (CPSS) in meeting the educational needs of youth. They support CPSS in helping youth graduate from high school, pass the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards test, and apply for postsecondary education as well as financial assistance.

Arizona has a number of public and charter high schools options with flexible class schedules, as well as GED programs that may offer students the ability to advance at a pace that works for their unique needs. In Calendar Year 2012, 567 or 62% of eligible youth age 18-21 who opted to remain in foster care and participate in the Independent Living Program completed high school or obtained a GED. In the same year, 385 or 82% of eligible youth participating in the Independent Living Program age 18-21 were either enrolled in or completed a college or trade school program.

Arizona also has a number of privately funded post-secondary scholarship opportunities specifically targeting youth who are aging out of foster care, including but not limited to the Nina Scholars at Arizona State University and Maricopa Community Colleges, Armstrong Family Foundation Scholars at Arizona State University, Blavin Scholars at Northern Arizona University and the Barbara Polk Scholars at Yavapai College. These scholarship programs offer financial assistance as well as wraparound support services that are so critical to each student's on-going success. The number of openings for these scholarship opportunities remains limited, however. Additionally, during SFY 2012, 309 youth received Educational and Training Vouchers of up to \$5,000 that is available from federal funding to ADES for youth who were in foster care at age 16 or older and are attending a post-secondary education program.

The 2013 Arizona Legislature passed legislation (SB 1208) that establishes a five year pilot to provide tuition waivers to youth transitioning from foster care at the three state universities and state-supported community colleges; this legislation became effective on September 13, 2013. The waiver assistance will be available after federal and state tuition assistance grants are applied.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** Youth who have experienced foster care must overcome educational deficits due to missing school days or changing schools frequently. Youth interviewed by the Initiative emphasized the need to address these deficits early on through tutoring and programs such as summer classes and on-line opportunities in order to help prepare them for high school and post-secondary education opportunities.

Additionally, the FosterEd Initiative, developed by the National Center for Youth Law, is being piloted in Pima County, Arizona starting in fall 2013. FosterEd is working to improve the educational outcomes of Arizona foster children. In partnership with state and local agencies, they will implement a continuous cycle of data-driven interventions to ensure every Arizona foster child has at least one educational champion with the characteristics proven to support educational success.

Enhanced communication is identified as an opportunity as there is a general lack of awareness about the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program as well as college scholarships for foster youth among attorneys, judges, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) members and foster parents surveyed by the Initiative.



## **Employment**

**Successes:** ADES offers a Youth Program providing job readiness and training services to young people ages 14-21. The main thrust of the Youth Program is to increase the focus on longer-term academic and occupational learning opportunities and provide long-term comprehensive service strategies. Additionally, Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS), Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, Goodwill AZ, and Job Crops offer a range of programmatic services for at risk youth and youth transitioning out of foster care. Program focus can include literacy skills, education for high school diplomas and General Educational Equivalent Diplomas (GEDs), job training, resume building, paid apprenticeships, case management, job referrals, housing, and guidance and mentorship. Programs target youth and young adults ranging from age 14 to 25.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** There is a general lack of awareness about State and community-based job training and placement programs available to foster youth among attorneys, judges, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Foster Care Review Board members and foster parents surveyed by the Initiative.

Individuals from agencies working with youth transitioning from foster care in addition to young people interviewed by the Initiative stressed the importance of obtaining personal documents, the difficulty acquiring them and the barriers this can pose. As a prerequisite to employment and school enrollment, young people need to obtain and have in their possession social security cards, birth certificates, immigration documents, school records, court records and other pertinent documents.

Youth also emphasized the need for access to more programs that provide individual assistance with resumes, job applications, and building a network of employers who are willing to hire foster youth and alumni beyond subsidized internships.

## **Financial Capability**

**Successes:** ADES-DCYF Independent Living and Transitional Independent Living programs provide training on budgeting, finances and building credit. Youth have the opportunity to create budgets and staff can provide support in opening up checking and savings accounts. In youth interviews, they expressed confidence in what they had learned from their training sessions in the areas of budgeting, education, apartment hunting, job applications, and transportation. Youth in the Independent Living Program are provided financial incentives by ADES-DCYF each time they obtain a high school diploma, GED, associate degree, bachelor's degree, or complete a job certificate program. ADES-DCYF also offers a match-saving program where eligible youth can receive up to \$1000 when they exit foster care.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** While ADES-DCYF provides a financial literacy component in the independent living skills training, youth interviewed indicated they had minimal real world experience in actually managing a bank account, credit card or a personal budget. For most youth, moving into their own apartment was their first experience with paying bills, budgeting and banking. There is also a general lack of awareness about the financial incentive programs available to foster youth among attorneys, judges, CASAs, FCRB members and foster parents and adult allies survey by the Initiative. Real world experience for more youth to practice what they learned with support from financial coaches is an opportunity worth exploring and enhancing.

## **Housing**

**Successes:** ADES offers youth in foster care age 17 and older the option of participating in the Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP). Youth may receive a monthly stipend to help cover living costs and expenses and may live in unlicensed housing (e.g. apartment, dormitory, etc.) as long as the youth's case plan requirements are met. If age 17, youth must meet program eligibility and be approved for ILSP by ADES and by the Juvenile Court. Youth age 18 and over must meet program eligibility, but court approval is not required.

The Housing Arizona Youth Project (HAYP) launched in July 2009 was focused on the housing needs of homeless and at risk youth between the ages of 16 and 25. HYAP was an initiative of the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness and funded by the Arizona Department of Housing and implemented by the ADES Homeless Coordination Office. The HAYP initiative provided a successful model and housing for 349 youth during the third and final year of funding (SFY 2012).

Youth serving agencies have also demonstrated successful partnerships with local government housing departments to administer Section 8 Vouchers for homeless youth, including youth who are transitioning from foster care. Agencies include One n Ten and Tumbleweed Center For Youth Development.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** Guidelines for the ILSP are complex; implementation regarding program eligibility and compliance is not perceived as consistent by youth or professionals and advocates who work with them. Youth interested in obtaining subsidized or supportive housing often face long waiting lists and a general lack of available units. While some transitional housing programs do exist, the number of available beds is much less than the need and funding for such programs is limited. Additionally, youth who have experienced trauma and homelessness often need, more than the 18-24 months funders allow in a transitional living program to be successful on their own.

Youth also face difficulty meeting credit and criminal background requirements, having deposits required for rental units and utilities, and generally lack experience and familiarity with landlord-tenant rights.

## **Physical and Mental Health**

**Successes:** The majority of survey respondents rated health care services provided by ADES' Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) to youth under the age of 18 while in foster care as effective.

Through AHCCCS (the state's Medicaid program), the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) provides youth turning 18 while in the Arizona's foster care system with health coverage until age 21. The passage of legislation by the Arizona State Legislature in 2013 extends this health care coverage for transitioning youth from age 21 to 26, beginning January 1, 2014, as mandated by the federal Affordable Care Act.

Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) - Transition to Independence Program (TIP) was developed in partnership with ADES-DCYF Arizona Young Adult Program in Maricopa County to address the needs of older youth transitioning from foster care with emotional and behavioral health challenges. JFCS, a local provider of children's and adult behavioral health services,

implemented a specialized program integrating staff and funding to serve transitioning youth age 16-21.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** There is a lack of clear understanding by youth and providers of the initial enrollment process (transfer from the ADES-DCYF CMDP program to AHCCCS YATI). Some youth are also not approved for AHCCCS YATI because they either were not asked about their history in foster care or they failed to disclose the information to eligibility staff. There is also a general lack of awareness regarding YATI among attorneys, CASAs, foster parents, Foster Care Review Board members, and social service providers surveyed. Additionally among youth interviewed, it was not uncommon to hear they were denied AHCCCS coverage by an eligibility worker even though they were indeed eligible.

When youth reach age 18, they are transferred from a children's behavioral health network of services and providers to the adult behavioral health services and programs both administered by a Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA). Policy and practice provide for transition assistance to insure continuity of services. In some areas the transition can be more complex if a change in agency is required or the youth does not receive transitional assistance from their current behavioral health provider when they turn 18. This can cause a disruption in services, including medication and counseling at a critical time in a young person's life. The majority of intensive resources for adults are prioritized for patients with a Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) diagnosis. For young adults transitioning from foster care and in the children's behavioral health system who are not SMI, the available services and resources in the adult system are much more limited.

## **Social Capital**

**Successes:** Several mentoring, peer support and training organizations exist for youth to network, build relationships and connect to resources. MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment), PASSAGE Transition Coalition, and In My Shoes create a venue where youth who have experienced foster care can provide support for their peers; develop critical skills in leadership, mentor, attend skills trainings and workshops, build self-advocacy skills, as well as form healthy relationships with caring adult allies. Adult mentors often provide a bridge to community resources and opportunities youth might not otherwise have access too.

The CASA program also provides youth who have been in foster care with caring adults who can advocate and mentor them while in care.

**Enhancement Opportunities:** While relationships with CASA's and mentors were described as positive and long term, there are not enough screened, trained and caring volunteers to meet the demand of all the youth in care. Additionally, youth who experience several placement types or move frequently within a year can face challenges connecting with their mentors. Some group homes or congregate care placements have restrictions on visitors that can make meeting with mentors difficult.

## **Conclusion**

The wealth of information outlined in the full Environmental Scan provides a solid foundation to identify and prioritize action steps needed for the Arizona Youth Opportunity Initiative Implementation Plan. There is much that can be done in Arizona to engage and support youth transitioning from foster care and provide them more quality opportunities for success.

## Introduction

In January 2013, Children's Action Alliance (CAA) partnered with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, key stakeholders representing state agencies serving the target population of youth in foster care and key service sectors supporting young people throughout their transition from foster care along with young people with first-hand experience in foster care to launch a strategic planning process for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative.

The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Inc. is providing support and technical assistance to Arizona for the planning process.<sup>1</sup> The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is a private foundation formed by two of the leading foundations focused exclusively on child and family well-being: the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs. Utilizing a model based on a set of core strategies, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is working with communities nationwide. This promising approach successfully integrates the voices of youth and young adults, community partnerships, data-driven decision making, improvement in policies and practices and creation of a range of opportunities for young people into the core work of state child welfare and other public agencies as well as other strategic allies.

An Environmental Scan serves as the framework for the Strategic Planning Process utilized by sites in the process of adopting the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative Model. Data and information from multiple sources will inform and assist stakeholders to plan for implementation of this initiative in Arizona.

The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative provided the framework for the Environmental Scan which consists of key areas to be addressed. The Environmental Scan is divided into nine sections. The **Introduction** outlines the approach and strategies utilized to collect data for the Environmental Scan. The **Capacity to Plan** section presents an overview of the background and history of Arizona's policies and practices to improve outcomes for youth in foster care. The **Demographics** section presents demographic data on Arizona's general population and on foster youth including outcome measures such as educational attainment and employment. The subsequent five sections present data and information in response to specific questions addressing five core strategies that are necessary in a community to improve outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care: **Youth Engagement, Partnerships and Resources, Research Evaluation and Communication, Public Will and Policy and Increased Opportunities**. The last section, **Consideration of Special Populations** addresses the unique needs of youth, especially facing transition to living on their own due to developmental disabilities, dually adjudicated dependent and delinquent, immigration status, or sexual orientation.

### Planning Team

In April 2013, Children's Action Alliance (CAA) convened a planning team made up of 46 members to provide input and guide the completion of the Environmental Scan. Key stakeholders representing state agencies serving the target population of youth in foster care and key service sectors supporting young

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<sup>1</sup> The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative was created in 2001 from a vision that every young person leaving foster care should have the opportunities and support needed for a successful transition to adulthood. Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is a national foundation whose lead co-investor is the Annie E. Casey Foundation, with major funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and crucial support contributed each year by numerous local funders. The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is named in memory of Jim Casey, the founder of UPS (United Parcel Service), who improved the lives of millions of American children and families by creating two national foundations. (<http://jimcaseyyouth.org>)

people throughout their transition from foster care (e.g., education, employment, housing, health, financial capability, permanence and social capital) were invited to participate along with young people with first-hand experience in foster care.

### **Data Collection Strategies**

Several strategies were used to gather the data and information for the Environmental Scan. Demographic and indicator data on the general population was obtained from large datasets (e.g. U.S. Census Bureau) and published reports from government agencies. More specific data on the population of children and youth in foster care was obtained from reports provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF). Additional reports published by Children's Action Alliance (CAA), Arizona Supreme Court-Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF), policy research organizations and community non-profit agencies.

### **Focus Groups and Interviews**

Focus groups with young people served as a crucial data collection strategy for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative. Young people who have been in foster care provided a unique perspective through first-hand knowledge about their experiences with services related to education, employment, housing, health, finances, social connections and other areas.

Children's Action Alliance (CAA) collaborated with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) and other agencies and organizations such as, Arizona's Children Association - In My Shoes Program, Florence Crittenton Services, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and Jewish Family and Children's Services to convene focus groups with young people ages 16-26 transitioning to living on their own. ADES-DCYF and the community-based providers assisted in identifying youth and facilitating their involvement in the focus groups and interviews. These discussions offered young people the opportunity to describe the challenges they face, programs and supports they found most helpful when transitioning from foster care and the resources they continue to need as individuals to become self-sufficient adults.

CAA conducted focus groups and interviews with 76 youth residing in Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma counties. Youth participating in these focus groups represented diverse demographics and experiences. Efforts were made to schedule focus groups to coincide with DES-DCYF Youth Advisory Board meetings, Independent Living Skills Training, alumni groups and other youth-oriented activities in locations accessible to the young people, such as provider agencies. In most instances, collaborating agencies assisted with transportation. Each young person received a \$20 gift card for their participation. The names of the young people participating in the focus groups remain confidential to protect their privacy and assure their safety.

In addition, valuable information was gathered through interviews and focus groups with more than 73 experts serving youth transitioning from foster care through various programs and organizations. Members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team played a key role in providing information for completion of this scan including providing input in small group sessions at meetings on April 23 and June 12, 2013. The following agencies and organizations participated in data collection for the Environmental Scan through interviews, focus groups and surveys:

- Arizona’s Children Association, Megan Conrad, Independent Living Program Senior Clinician, Bailey Driver, Assistant Program Coordinator, Jessica Kelly, Assistant Program Coordinator, Christa Drake, Program Coordinator, In My Shoes (Youth Focus Groups)
- Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children’s Services Division, Caroline Lutt Owens, Director and Court Improvement Program, Rob Shelley, Program Manager
- Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Kim Simmons, Policy and Training Administrator
- Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, Barbara Guillen, Independent Living State Coordinator, Shannon Clayton, Independent Living Project Specialist (Independent Living Staff Focus Group), Veronica Mendoza, Education Specialist, Dennis Hinz, Education Specialist and Pamela Harris, CPS Specialist III (Youth Focus Group)
- Arizona Department of Education, Jean Ajamie, Director of School Safety and Prevention
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Katrina Suell, Community Services Administrator (Youth Focus Group and Interviews)
- Arizona State University, School of Social Work, Megan Hayes, MSW, Doctoral Student
- Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents, Kris Jacober, President
- Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, Anne Ronan, Attorney
- Arizona Council of Human Service Providers, Emily Jenkins, Executive Director
- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, Kris Jacober, Executive Director, and Tamera Shanker, Board Chair and Attorney
- Casey Family Programs, Jakki Kolzow, Deputy Director and Susan Hallett, Director
- Canyon State Academy, Brian Heath, Director and Dana Bennett, Case Management Coordinator
- Devereux, Brandi Eicher, Director of Prevention Services
- Florence Crittenton, Ashley Faye, Youth Program Supervisor, (Youth Focus Group)
- Family Involvement Center, Jane Kallal, Executive Director
- Jewish Family and Children Services, Maryjo Whitfield, Vice President, Behavioral Health and Mary Schraven, Director of Transition Services (Youth Focus Group)
- Magellan, MY LIFE, Greg Dicharry, Youth Empowerment Director and Erica Goble, Child and Youth Services Liaison
- Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate, Andrew Messen, Katherine Badrick, Mara Siegel, Jason Max and Art Merchant, Attorneys
- Native American Connections, Diana Yazzie Devine, President and CEO
- Our Family, Laurie Mazerbo, Director of Homeless Services
- PASSAGE Transition Coalition, Meghan Arrigo, Board Member
- Quality Care Network, Gary Brennan, CEO
- Research Advisory Services, Eddie Sissions, Consultant,
- Sunshine Group Homes, Simon Kottoor, Director
- Tumbleweed, Ken McKinley, Vice President of Programs and Carl Tuitavuki, Director Young Adult Program

## Surveys

Three surveys were also utilized to gather input from youth and stakeholder groups.

- **Legal Advocacy Survey**

A survey was administered online using SurveyMonkey.com for stakeholders with various legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including:

- Attorneys
- Social Workers working in Maricopa County Public Advocate Offices
- Guardians ad Litem

- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Foster Care Review Board Members
- Judges
- Commissioners

Potential survey respondents were invited to participate in the survey by directors of their programs or agencies via email. Survey participants were asked for input on the effectiveness of policies, programs, services and supports in helping youth successfully transition from foster care, barriers and recommendations to expand opportunities for youth in the future. Responses were received from 171 participants from Arizona's 15 counties with the majority (54%) of responses from Maricopa County. Survey results are presented in Appendix 1.

#### ▪ **Foster Parent Survey**

A survey was administered online using SurveyMonkey.com for foster parents with experience parenting older teens. Potential survey respondents were invited to participate by the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Survey participants were asked for input on their experience providing foster care to teens and the effectiveness of policies, programs, services and supports in helping youth successfully transition from foster care and recommendations to expand opportunities for youth in the future. Responses were received from 28 participants from four Arizona counties, with the majority (86%) from Maricopa County. Foster parents surveyed had collectively cared for 385 children with 65 of those ages 16 years or older. Approximately half (50%) of the foster parents surveyed had seven or more years of experience. The foster parents surveyed had a Survey results are presented in Appendix 2.

#### ▪ **Youth Survey**

A survey was administered to youth transitioning from foster care ages 15-20 attending the ADES-DCYF Annual Youth Conference on June 26, 2013. This comprehensive survey consisted of the questions used in the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative Opportunity Passport Survey with the exception of some specific questions pertaining to matching accounts. The survey was administered primarily as an online survey utilizing SurveyMonkey.com with a paper option. Administering the Arizona Youth Opportunities Survey provided an opportunity for Arizona to gain experience with the survey and gather comprehensive information and baseline data on key outcomes. Survey participants included 20 volunteers attending the conference. The majority (73.7%) were ADES-State Youth Advisory Board members. As an incentive to participate, youth were given a raffle ticket for the drawing of prizes that included \$20 Target Gift Cards and other prizes. Survey results are compiled and presented in Appendix 3.

## A. CAPACITY TO PLAN

### 1. Public Child Welfare Agency Support: A strong partnership with the public child welfare agency is in place to maximize the impact of the core strategies.

Describe the extent to which:

#### A. The public child welfare agency engages in effective partnerships and collaborations with the community and key stakeholders.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF) has a history of engaging in strategic partnerships with the community and key stakeholders. Several initiatives have been put in place over the past several years to increase community collaboration. Examples of some of these efforts include:

- **Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP)** ADES-DCYF participates in ASAP which is composed of representatives from state governmental bodies, federal entities and community organizations and serves as the single statewide council on substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment and recovery efforts. Established, by Executive Order 2007-12 in June 2007, ASAP has focused on five areas: prescription drugs, underage drinking, child welfare (focusing on treatment, drug-endangered children, and children of incarcerated parents), law enforcement, and prevention/community partnerships.
- **Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services (CPS)** Executive Order 2008-01 in January 2008 prioritized substance abuse treatment to families involved in the child welfare system and marked a systematic change in state planning and policy. ASAP took this one step further by adopting drug endangered children as a strategic focus area, which has expanded to include children of incarcerated parents in the child welfare population. This broad focus on drug endangered children, children of incarcerated parents, and child welfare ensures that children impacted by substance abuse receive the state's attention.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012, p.12.*

- **Multi-disciplinary Teams** This initiative launched in November 2011 to expand capacity of the multi-disciplinary teams statewide with a focus on under-served counties: Greenlee, Graham, LaPaz, Cochise, Santa Cruz and Apache. Focus areas include:
  - Expanding best practice model of child and family advocacy centers which focus on joint investigations of physical and sexual abuse of children by Child Protective Services and law enforcement.
  - Establishing or strengthening relationships with community partners responsible for the joint investigation protocols including law enforcement, county attorneys, medical personnel, victim's advocates, etc.
  - Increasing the number of CPS staff who are co-located in, or assigned to work with child and family advocacy centers and other multi-disciplinary teams.



- The **Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI)** was established following passage of Arizona HB 2721 in 2012. OCWI is responsible for assessing, responding to and investigating criminal allegations of child abuse and neglect with the appropriate local law enforcement entity and Child Protective Services. In addition, OCWI will provide training to law enforcement. CPS and other multi-disciplinary team members to ensure best practices and outcomes for at-risk children.

**Source of Data:** SB 1375 (Laws of 2013).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Children, Youth and Families, Presentation: *Child Welfare Trends in Arizona, Semi- Annual Report Update*, January 24, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.212.

- **Collaborative Protocol Between Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)-**  
A joint protocol developed by ADES-DCYF and ADJC in 2013 outlines a collaborative process to ensure dually involved youth committed to ADJC are able to transition smoothly into the community. All youth committed to ADJC are released on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. For those youth who are also dependent, ADES-DCYF works with ADJC on concurrent planning for the dually adjudicated youth who are eligible to receive services beyond. Included in the protocol are key responsibilities and timelines for agency staff from ADJC and ADES-DCYF and focus on three areas:
  - Referring youth in ADJC care (secure or community) to CPS for Assessment of Dependency
  - Assessing Community Placement Needs
  - Assessing Therapeutic Needs (including placement)

**Source of Data:** Collaborative Protocol 2013 between the Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC).

## **B. Past efforts and future plans by the agency include services and supports to older youth in foster care.**

Over the past 30 years Arizona has passed legislation and established policies and program components to support youth transitioning from foster care administered by the ADES-DCYF. Some key efforts include:

- 1983-Established specialized case management staff and units to work with youth transitioning from foster care to independent living (Arizona Young Adult Program)
- 1983-Legislation providing for an Independent Living Subsidy Program
- 2000-Legislation to allow youth to remain in foster care until age 21 and established the Transitional Independent Living Program
- 2000-Legislation to extend health coverage to youth in foster care who turn 18 until their 21st birthday and in 2001 allowed this coverage without regard to income. (Young Adult Transition Insurance, YATI) through AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid program
- 2006-ADES-DCYF policy enhancements that permits former Arizona foster youth under 21 who left care at age 18 or older have the option of returning to the state agency for these services, including transitional living support and the cost of housing

- 2010-Legislation to ensure siblings are placed together whenever possible and contact is permitted
- 2013-Legislation (SB 1208) providing tuition waivers for former foster youth to state community colleges and universities

### **Services for Transitioning Youth**

Utilizing federal funding from the Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Programs and state funds, ADES-DCYF provides services to older youth in foster care designed to help them make a successful transition to adulthood through seven key program components. These program components include:

- Independent Living Program - Arizona Young Adult Program (ILP-AYAP)
- Financial Incentives
- Voluntary Foster Care Agreement
- Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)
- Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)
- Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)
- Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI)

Arizona's policies for youth transitioning foster care are described briefly below.

### **Independent Living Program -Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP)**

The Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) provides specialized units of CPS Specialists to serve youth 16-20 (until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday) identified as "likely to age out of foster care" with an assigned permanency goal of emancipation or independent living. Most of the youth have a case plan goal of independent living. The AYAP units are available in Maricopa and Pima Counties, however, not all youth are served by the AYAP CPS Specialists. As in other ADES-DCYF regions, case management services may be provided by CPS Specialists carrying a variety of types of cases.

CPS Specialists and contract providers providing independent living and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services such as Arizona's Children Association (AzCA), Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) and Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development staff assist youth in the development of job readiness skills such as resume writing, interview skills and job maintenance.

Independent Living Skills Training is provided to youth in the Arizona Young Adult Program and Transitional Independent Living Program statewide through contracts with community child welfare agencies. Beginning in 2013, ADES contracted with Arizona's Children Association to provide the training statewide. In addition, youth are referred to existing community programs designed to assist transitioning youth and provide support.

### **Financial Incentives**

Youth who are currently in the Arizona foster care system, and who are participating in the Young Adult Program services, may be eligible for the following incentives for reaching various milestones. The policy governing incentives was revised in 2013 to increase the range, type amounts such as:

- \$100 upon completion of high school or an equivalency program (GED).
- \$100 or \$250 upon completion of a Certification or Licensing Program from an Accredited Vocational/Trade School or Skills Center.

- \$500-Graduate with an Associate’s Degree from a two-year Community College, Junior College or Vocational/Trade Program or attain the equivalent of 48 credit hours towards successfully completing a 2-year degree at the time of turning 21 years of age or case closure.
- \$1,000-Attain the equivalent of 72 credit hours towards successfully completing a four-year degree at the time of during 21 years of age or case closure.
- \$1,500-Graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited four-year College or University at the time of turning 21 years of age or case closure.

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 5: Section 34 Independent Living Services & Supports: ACY-1300AFORFF (4-13). Meeting with Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, ADES-DCYF, July 19, 2013.

- **Savings Match-\$1000** (maximum) savings match upon exit from services. (\$2 for every \$1 saved) Youth must sign a savings match agreement and contribute to a savings account before leaving care to request the funds.

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 5: Section 34Independent Living Services & Supports: FC-169-FF (7-13). Meeting with Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, July 19, 2013.

ADES-DCYF policy directs CPS Specialists to describe services and aftercare support available including:

- Transitional living and support services (through the Transitional Independent Living Program-TILP)
- Education and employment training opportunities (including the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) which is available to age 23)
- Re-entry into DCYF supervised services after exiting care at age 18 or older
- Health insurance (Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) through AHCCCS).

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 5: Section 34, Independent Living Services & Supports, (www.azdes.gov).

### **Voluntary Placement Agreement and Re-entry**

Youth may sign a case plan agreement prior to their 18th birthday to remain in foster care or re-enter care prior to their 21st birthday. Youth may continue in any licensed placement (foster home or group facility as permitted by licensing regulations and facilities continue to be paid by ADES-DCYF for the youth.) For example, most group placements allow youth to remain in the facility until they reach age 19 if they are enrolled in high school. Additionally, the Independent Living Subsidy Program is an option for the young person to live independently in unlicensed housing with the support and supervision of ADES-DCYF.

Following the enactment of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (H.R. 3443 aka the John Chafee Act), CAA working in coordination with ADES-DCYF, successfully advocated for the passage of HB 2400 in the 2000 Regular Session of the Arizona State Legislature. HB 2400 implemented components of the new federal law. It eliminated the prohibition of foster care services to youth under 21 who have received a high school diploma or GED. It established the Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) to provide a variety of services. A youth up to age 21 may receive residential, ILSP and other support services if in the ILSP or in an out-of-home placement under a voluntary placement or a dependency action when turning age 18. A youth up to age 21 may receive a variety of support services if in state custody before turning 18.

Court jurisdiction for all dependent and delinquent youth in Arizona ends at age 18. Therefore, there was no requirement with the passage of this legislation in 2000 that the juvenile court oversee the cases of dependent youth who voluntarily agree to remain in foster care or be in the Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP). Arizona has not moved to adopt the provisions of the newest federal law regarding extended care, the Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893/P.L. 110-351). The Fostering Connections Act allows states to draw down additional federal Title IV-E funds for extended foster care if there is court oversight of the case. Arizona does not have court oversight of these cases at this time.

**Source of Data:** ARS §8-521.01: Transitional independent living program, ([www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)).

**Source of Data:** ARS §8-201 and Arizona State Constitution, 15: Jurisdiction and authority in juvenile proceedings, ([www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.165.

### **Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)**

The Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP) was established within ADES-DCYF in 1983 to provide transitional support for youth aging out of foster care, who were not reunified with their families nor adopted by age 18. Eligibility requirements include being in state custody, at least 17 years of age, and employed or a full-time student.

The Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP) is an option for out-of-home placement for youth ages 17- 20 (until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday) to live independently, provided they meet minimum program requirements which are:

- adjudicated dependent, the subject of a dependency petition, or age 18 or older and in extended care through their case plan (recognized as the Voluntary Foster Care Agreement for Young Adults 18 Through 20);
- in out-of-home care and in the custody of ADES-DCYF;
- at least 17 years of age;
- youth age 17 must have court approval to participate in this program (court approval is not required for youth age 18 and older); and
- participating in an approved schedule of activities specific to the individual youth's educational, employment, vocational, and therapeutic goals as outlined in the youth's case plan.

Prior to policy revisions made in July 2013, youth received up to \$715 per month to help with their expenses. Policy revisions effective July 2013 include:

- ILSP Agreements are based on the youth's case plan and approved by the CPS Specialist, Supervisor and ADES-DCYF central office staff.
- Youth approved for the ILSP will receive monthly payments that decrease at six month intervals for a maximum of 48 months. Subsidy units are structured according to seven levels beginning with the maximum rate (\$715) and decrease to \$205 for months 37-48. No more than six units may be approved per rate level.

<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING SUBSIDY PAYMENTS</b>	
<b>Months</b>	<b>Units (Monthly Payment)</b>
1-6	\$715
7-12	\$630
13-18	\$545
19-24	\$460
25-30	\$375
31-36	\$290
37-48	\$205

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 5: Section 36 Independent Living Subsidy Program: ADS-1021A FORNA (6-13) and Meeting with Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, July 19, 2013.

A variety of living arrangements are options for a youth participating in the ILSP program including college dormitory, apartment, renting a room in a home or continuing to live with a foster parent as a boarder. For example, a foster parent may agree to allow a youth to remain in their home as a "boarder", where the youth receives their ILSP check, and pays a portion for room and board to the foster parent.

### **Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)**

The Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) provides services to youth 18-20 who chose to leave foster care at age 18 or later and wish to reapply for support and services without returning to foster care. Services are also available to any legal resident of Arizona who at age sixteen or older was in any State or federally recognized tribal foster care system. This includes youth who exited care at age sixteen or older to permanent guardianship and adoption. Services are provided through contracts with community agencies. Beginning July 1, 2013, Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) is providing independent living skills training and transitional services to foster youth statewide under a contract with ADES-DCYF.

### **Educational Training Voucher Program (ETV)**

Arizona's Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV) provides financial support for postsecondary education and training to youth ages 16 to 23 currently or formerly in the Arizona foster care system and youth formerly in another state or tribe's foster care system and currently residing in Arizona. Arizona (ADES-DCYF) partnered with Foster Care To Success (FC2S), a national nonprofit organization, to administer the ETV program. In 2011, FC2S administered ETV state grant programs in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, New York, North Carolina and Ohio in addition to the Casey Family Scholars and Casey Family Services Alumni Scholars programs. FC2S staff and volunteers are available to advise, coach and guide each young person. FC2S supports include outreach and mentoring services through a state-of-the-art web portal. Up to \$5000 per year is provided in ETV funds to students who make satisfactory progress in their post-secondary education program up until age 23.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Summary Document provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 1.6.2013.

**Source of Data:** Foster Care to Success ([www.fc2success.org](http://www.fc2success.org)).

### **Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI)**

Since 2000, Arizona has offered health coverage to eligible young adults ages 18 to 21 through AHCCCS, the state Medicaid program. Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) allows youth turning 18 while in the state foster care system to become enrolled through an expedited process designed to

ensure seamless health care coverage. The legislation as enacted in 2000 allowed for Medicaid coverage for those youth whose income did not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level; this FPL income requirement was eliminated in the 2001 legislative session. There is no income restriction for this category of eligibility, so youth may secure livable wage employment without fear of losing health care coverage. Effective January 1, 2014, youth enrolled in the Arizona Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) will remain eligible up to their 26th birthday as provided by Arizona’s legislation for expansion of Medicaid to comply with the Affordable Health Care Act.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Summary Document provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 1.6.2013. Meetings with Children’s Action Alliance staff, Beth Rosenberg, Matt Jewett ADES staff, Rod Mas and Terri Cancilliere and AHCCCS staff, Penny Ellis, Julie Swenson on May 23, and July 11, 2013.

**Program Goals and Benchmarks**

Arizona monitors the effectiveness of its Independent Living Program and Educational and Training Voucher Program through four program goals.

<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM GOALS AND STATUS 2012</b>		
<b>ILP/ETVP Goals</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Benchmark Goals Met</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> The percentage of eligible (age 17 and older) youth in the Independent Living Program participating in the Independent Living Subsidy (ILS) Program will be 40% or more.	In SFY 2012, 42% of eligible youth in the Independent Living Program (age 17 and older) participated in the Independent Living Subsidy (ILS) Program. (451 of 1,080)	Yes
<b>Goal 2:</b> The percentage of participants age eighteen and older in the Independent Living Program and Transitional Independent Living Program who have completed high school or obtained a GED will be 83% or more.	In CY 2012, 62% of youth (18 years and older in the ILP and TILP) completed high school or obtained a GED (567 of 910); ILP - 68% (467 of 689), TILP - 45% (100 of 221)	No
<b>Goal 3:</b> The percentage of participants in the Independent Living Program and Transitional Independent Living Program who were enrolled in or completed a post-secondary education or training program after completing high school or obtaining a GED will exceed the 45% benchmark.	In CY 2012, 82% of ILP participants (385 of 467) and 38% of TILP participants (38 of 100) were enrolled in or completed a post-secondary education or training program after completing high school or obtaining a GED.	Yes-ILP No-TILP
<b>Goal 4:</b> The percentage of participants in the Independent Living Program and Transitional Independent Living Program age 17 and older who are employed will exceed the 45% benchmark.	In CY 2012, 30% of ILP participants (319 of 1,080) and 25% of TILP participants (52 of 221) age 17 and older were employed.	No

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012* and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

A summary of the statutory authority, eligibility guidelines and description of services for each of the policies supporting transitioning youth in Arizona prepared by ADES-DCYF is provided in Appendix 4. An overview of these key program components of Arizona's child welfare system implemented to support youth transitioning from foster care are summarized in the matrix below highlighting age of eligibility and number participants.

ADES-DCYF TRANSITIONING YOUTH PROGRAMS	AGE OF ELIGIBILITY									
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 & 25	
<p><b>Independent Living Program (ILP)</b> - Any youth 16 years of age or older, in custody of the ADES, in an out-of-home placement and who will most likely age-out of foster care. Youth is eligible to receive specialized case management services, focusing on independent living and self-sufficiency skills up to age 21. ADES Case Managers provide case supervision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Voluntary Placement Agreement</b> - Youth in the custody of ADES at age 18 may sign a Voluntary Placement Agreement to remain in care. Youth can continue in care up to age 21 if case plan requirements are met.</li> <li>• <b>Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)</b> - Youth placed in the custody of ADES. If age 17, youth must meet program eligibility and be approved for ILSP by ADES and by the Juvenile Court. Youth age 18 and over must meet program eligibility, but court approval is not required. Youth are eligible up to age 21 and receive a monthly stipend to help cover living costs and expenses and may live in unlicensed housing (e.g. apartment, dormitory, etc.) as long as youth's case plan requirements are met.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X					
	<b>1572 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									
				X	X	X				
	<b>602 Youth Participants in FFY 2012</b>									
	X	X	X	X						
<b>451 Youth Participants in FY 2012</b>										
<p><b>Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)</b> - Former foster youth from any public or Tribal child welfare agency who were in out-of-home placement when age 16, 17, or 18. Youth are eligible to receive specialized case management services in Arizona, through a community contractor (i.e. Arizona's Children Association) focusing on independent living and self-sufficiency skills up to age 21. Some financial support may be available.</p>			X	X	X					
	<b>221 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									
<b>Additional Support Services</b>										
<p><b>Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)</b> - Current and former foster youth from any public or Tribal child welfare agency who were in out-of-home care when age 16, 17, or 18. Youth may be eligible for up to \$5,000 of post-secondary educational assistance up to age 23.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	<b>309 Youth Participants in SFY 2012</b>									
<p><b>Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI)</b> - Current and former foster youth in the custody of the ADES and who turn 18 while in Arizona foster care. Youth are eligible for a qualifying AHCCCS health plan regardless of income status up to age 21 (up to age 26 as of 1-1-2014).</p>			X	X	X					
	<b>613 Youth Participants in CY 2012</b>									

**Note:** FFY 2012-Federal Fiscal Year-October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012; CY 2012-Calendar Year 2012-January 1-December 31, 2012; SFY 2012- State Fiscal Year-July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012.

**Source of Data:** Adapted from Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2011 and 2012*. Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports –October 1,2011-March 31,2012, p. 34 and April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012*, Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Email communication from Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 6.21.2013.

**C. The agency is committed to participate and champion planning activities for implementation of the core strategies.**

ADES-DCYF has affirmed their commitment to the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative as demonstrated through the following examples:

- letters of support,
- meetings and briefings with administrators,
- provision of reports and information on policy and programs affecting youth in foster care,
- key staff members serving on the Planning Team, and
- coordination with Youth Advisory Boards and provider agencies to create opportunities for young people to participate in various aspects of the planning process, including focus groups for the Environmental Scan.

**Source of Data:** Letters of Support from ADES-DCYF, 7.24.2012 and 3.29.2013, meeting with Children’s Action Alliance staff and ADES-DCYF Administrators, Flora Sotomayor, Assistant Director, Veronica Bossack, Assistant Director (former), Deb Harper (Program Administrator) Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 2.25.2013.

**D. The agency commits resources, financial and/or in-kind, to support implementation of the core strategies.**

ADES-DCYF has indicated their commitment to provide in-kind services to support the implementation of the core strategies for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative. This in-kind assistance includes involvement of key ADES-DCYF staff in the planning and data collection process for completion of the Environmental Scan. Additionally, ADES-DCYF is committed to collaborations and partnerships with community organizations with contracts to provide independent living services to assist with engagement of youth in the initiative.

**Source of Data:** Letter of Support from ADES-DCYF for Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative 7.24.2012, Meeting with Children’s Action Alliance staff and ADES-DCYF Administrators, Flora Sotomayor, Assistant Director, Veronica Bossack, Assistant Director (former), Deb Harper (Program Administrator) Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 2.25.2013.

**2. Interagency Coordination/Collaboration: Multiple public and private systems, working with the lead agency and key stakeholders, take responsibility and are accountable for achieving good outcomes for young people in, and exiting from, foster care.**

**Describe the extent to which:**

- A. **Systems of care (e.g. education, mental health, juvenile justice, adult services, and labor) that provide or broker services and supports that affect the well-being of young people in, or exited from, foster care have been identified and engaged.**
- B. **Systems of care support the core strategies and recognize the importance of implementing all five strategies in combination for maximum effect.**

As the lead agency, Children’s Action Alliance (CAA) has a longstanding history of more than 25 years working collaboratively with systems of care (e.g. education, mental health, juvenile justice, adult services, and labor) to improve the well-being of Arizona’s vulnerable children and youth, especially those in the child welfare system. As examples, the following agency representatives were



involved in the earliest stages of planning for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative and wrote letters pledging their support:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF)
- Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)
- Arizona Department of Health Services- Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS-DBHS)
- Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents
- Arizona Partnership for Children
- Arizona's Children Association (AzCA)
- Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth
- Florence Crittenton Services
- Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS)
- Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO)
- Touchstone Behavioral Health
- Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
- Valley of the Sun United Way

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, Letters of Support for Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, July-August 2012.

### **3. Capacity of Lead Agency for Developing the Implementation Plan: The Lead Agency engages youth and young adults, public and private agencies, and community partners in all planning, implementation and evaluation of the five core strategies.**

**Describe the extent to which:**

#### **A. The lead agency's mission statement includes working with youth and families who enter the child welfare system and a history of supporting youth engagement and principles of positive youth development in service delivery.**

CAA is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. Since 1988, CAA has worked as a non-profit, non-partisan research, education and advocacy organization, to influence policies and decisions affecting the lives of Arizona children and their families on issues related to health, child abuse and neglect, early care and education, budget and taxes, juvenile justice, and working families.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance (CAA) [www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org).

#### **B. The lead agency has a proven ability to convene natural partners including the child welfare agency, private placement agencies, and other systems and community partners to actively engage in creating opportunities for young people in, or exiting from, foster care.**

The focus on improving outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care has been a long-time CAA goal and commitment. In 2000, CAA championed progressive legislation that allows youth in foster care to remain under the state's care and to remain enrolled in AHCCCS health insurance until they reach 21 years of age. Arizona was one of the first states to implement these policies. This critical legislation certainly helped, but did not resolve all the issues present for these young adults.

The CAA Child Welfare Advisory Committee continues to facilitate collaborative initiatives across systems to improve the outcomes for young people exiting from foster care. For example, in 2003, CAA led a collaborative effort with Casey Family Programs, state agency representatives, Court Appointed Special Advocates and non-profit agencies serving youth to publish *Transitions: Building Better Lives for Youth Leaving Foster Care*. The report provided information on laws, funding, state programs and services to support transitioning youth, findings from focus groups with youth in/from foster care, and new and emerging issues and recommendations. This report was updated in 2005 and included ten recommendations summarized as follows:

- 1) Encourage older youth to remain in care until they have the capabilities and resources to successfully live on their own.
- 2) Provide an independent process for appeal when DES denies the opportunity for youth to remain in care beyond age 18.
- 3) Change policy to allow older foster youth to return on a “voluntary” status once they have left foster care.
- 4) Increase the Independent Living Subsidy rate from \$558 per month and identify new resources to connect transitioning foster youth with safe and affordable housing.
- 5) Implement protocols and practices that continue inter-agency coordination and services to dually adjudicated youth.
- 6) Expand the mentoring program to assure all youth in the process of transitioning from foster care have an adult mentor.
- 7) Provide sufficient financial support to permit foster youth to continue with post-secondary education or other professional or trade school.
- 8) Provide at least one CPS Independent Living Specialist in each CPS district and sufficient case management staff to support youth’s needs.
- 9) Increase the quantity, quality and appropriateness of foster care placements.
- 10) Track outcomes of transitioning youth

Most recommendations from the 2005 *Transitions Building Better Lives for Youth Leaving Foster Care* have been addressed by ADES-DCYF through adoption of policies and programs to expand opportunities for youth to include:

- Beginning in 2006 former Arizona foster youth under 21 who left care at age 18 or older have the option of returning to the state agency for these services, including transitional living support and the cost of housing. Training and technical assistance on the re-entry policy continues to be provided statewide, on an as needed basis.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p 165.

- The Independent Living Subsidy Program monthly stipend was increased from \$548 to \$795 in 2006. Due to state budget cuts, ADES-DCYF reduced the ILSP monthly maximum amount to \$715 in 2009.
- The Housing Arizona Youth Project (HYAP) was launched in 2009 as an initiative of the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness identifying transitioning foster youth as a priority.
- ADES-DCYF is participating in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) that includes comprehensive data collection on youth who have transitioned from foster care.
- Legislation in 2006 established two ADES-DCYF Education Specialists who have focused on improving data collection on education level attained by current and former foster youth and monitoring the Education and Training Voucher Program.
- ADES-DCYF established a section for the Arizona Young Adult Program on the agency's website which provides comprehensive information on the Independent Living Program and Arizona Young Adult Program services along with links to the online Children's Services Manual, resources including information on youth rights a formal grievance process and feedback surveys.

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF ([www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov)) Children's Services Manual, Chapter 5 Sections 34-37 (contains information on Young Adult Program services and Chapter 7 Section 19 provides information on Resolving Conflict, including formal grievance procedures.

- Legislation was passed in 2013 that will provide tuition waivers for current and former foster youth to attend state universities and community colleges.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, Meeting on Tuition Waiver legislation, July 24, 2013.

- The remaining recommendations were addressed through efforts by ADES-DCYF and partner agencies and organizations to expand services such as mentoring, develop and implement protocols for dually adjudicated youth, and continuous program improvement and training. While significant progress has been made, more work needs to be done to insure youth receive additional supports and services to make certain they have a supportive adult to rely on, get education supports needed to obtain and retain employment, have a safe, stable and affordable place to live, have access to reliable health care, have supportive relationships in the community and the ability to reenter care until age 21.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, *Transitions: Building Better Lives for Youth Leaving Foster Care, Update and Recommendations*, September 2005.

- In a collaborative effort with the ADES-DCYF, the Governor's Youth Advisory Board, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and many others, CAA produced *Getting From Here to There: A Guide to the Dependency Court For Children and Youth in Foster Care*, designed to educate youth and encourage them to take an active role in the legal processes pertaining to case planning and their future. The project was youth-driven as the guide was reviewed by youth in foster care for input.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, *Getting from Here to There: A Guide to the Dependency Court for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, 2007.

CAA works with policymakers, state agencies, community partners and leaders, law enforcement, and concerned citizens throughout the state to improve Arizona's juvenile justice system with goals to address community safety, reduce recidivism, redirect and strengthen troubled youth, and promote successful transitions to adulthood. Examples of comprehensive publications by CAA include:

- Released in November of 2010, CAA's report, *Improving Public Safety by Keeping Youth Out of the Adult Criminal Justice System*, documents research showing that Arizona youth and communities are safer by keeping more youth in the juvenile justice system rather than having youth tried and sentenced in the adult criminal justice system.
- *Racial Disproportionality in the Juvenile Justice System in Maricopa County* released by CAA in June 23, 2008, explores racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system in Maricopa County. The data show a disproportionately high percentage of youth in the county's juvenile justice system are youth of color.
- CAA released *Prosecuting Juveniles in the Adult Criminal Justice System* in June of 2003 and was the first publication addressing key issues and recommendations regarding youth who are tried and sentenced in Arizona's criminal system designed for adults.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, *Improving Public Safety by Keeping Youth Out of the Adult Criminal Justice System*, November 17, 2010, *Racial Disproportionality in the Juvenile Justice System in Maricopa County*, June 23, 2008, *Prosecuting Juveniles in the Adult Criminal Justice System*, June 1, 2003 ([www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org)).

As the many letters of support indicate, CAA has the capacity and willingness to work with youth in foster care, foster care alumni, and public and private agencies. Efforts will be concentrated on engaging the business community and additional partners. Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) provides independent living skills training and transitional services to foster youth under contract with ADES-DCYF and mentoring and peer support for youth in foster care and alumni (In My Shoes). Florence Crittenton serves as the home agency of PASSAGE Transition Coalition in Maricopa County consisting of organizations and community members rallied around the common goal of bridging the gap from foster care to a successful future and providing them with the resources needed to achieve that goal. Other agencies including Jewish Family and Children's Services, Arizona Partnership for Children, Tumbleweed, Touchstone Behavioral Health and Valley of the Sun United Way work with youth and are supportive of CAA coordinating the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative. Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation and the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents are engaged in this effort as well. In addition, at one gathering, 30 youth in foster care signed a petition in support of the initiative. CAA plans to form youth leadership and community partnership boards inclusive of these agencies and groups that will direct the work of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative.

Additionally, CAA formed a partnership with the new FosterEd Initiative, located in Tucson, developed by the National Center for Youth Law. The FosterEd Initiative seeks to improve the educational opportunities afforded to children in foster care and began implementation in Arizona in 2013.

**Source of Data:** Meeting with Children's Action Alliance staff and representatives of Foster Ed Initiative, Peter Hershberger, Arizona Director, FosterEd Initiative, National Center for Youth Law and Jesse Hahnel, Director, FosterEd Initiative, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA on 2.26.2013.

CAA has conducted numerous briefings with representatives from strategic partner organizations regarding the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative. Many of these partners will be recruited to serve on the Community Advisory Board for the project beginning in the implementation phase. In February 2013, a full time staff member was hired for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative in

addition to a consultant to assist with the development of the Environmental Scan. The Planning Team was convened in April 2013 to provide input and guide the completion of the Environmental Scan. Members represent key stakeholders with expertise in the five Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative core strategy areas. All participants in the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative are asked to support the implementation of core strategies. Planning team members represent the following perspectives:

- Young people transitioning from foster care and alumni
- Juvenile Justice
- LGBT community agency
- Community College
- Foundations
- Attorneys
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Local businesses
- Scholarship programs
- Public Child Welfare Agencies
- Faith Organization
- Job Training programs
- Courts
- Community child welfare agencies
- Behavioral health
- Foster parents
- Transitional Living Programs
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Agencies
- Secondary Education
- Parent Advocates
- Judges

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance, AYOI Planning Team 3.18.2013.

### **C. The lead agency has the support of private and public funding partners.**

Major funding sources for Children’s Action Alliance include:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- First Things First
- Ford Foundation
- Robidoux Foundation
- Season for Sharing- Republic Media
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Pima Community Access Program (CHIPRA)
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
- Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- J.W. Keickhefer Foundation
- W.K Kellogg Foundation
- McMiles Foundation
- Pima Community Access Program
- St. Luke’s Health Initiatives
- Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
- APS/Pinnacle West Corporation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- Margaret T. Morris Foundation

- Mercy Care Plan
- National Employment Law Project
- Save the Children
- Magellan Health Services
- Greenberg Traurig

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance 2011, 2012 Annual Reports and website (www.azchildren.org).

**4. Data Gathering and Analysis: Planning to implement the core strategies is based on data gathering and analysis, to inform knowledge of the unique needs, opportunities and challenges in the community and state.**

**Describe the extent to which:**

- A. The lead agency and its partners have a history of gathering data and the capacity to complete the Environmental Scan; including an identified contact in the child welfare agency to gather data on system indicators.**

CAA has a history of working collaboratively with key partner agencies to collect data and demonstrated capacity to complete the Environmental Scan. Each year since 1988, CAA has published policy briefs and reports addressing issues in areas such as child abuse and neglect, budget and taxes, early care and education, health, juvenile justice, working poor, grandfamilies etc. These reports and briefs are supported by extensive research, data collection and analyses. Information published by CAA is designed for a broad audience. CAA is part of a national initiative, KIDS COUNT, to collect data and publish statistical reports on the condition of children. Key indicators of child well-being measure the health, social, educational and economic status of the state's children and compare them to those of the nation.

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance, (www.azchildren.org).

ADES-DCYF designated Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, as the primary liaison to the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative and she has assisted with data requests for the Environmental Scan. ADES-DCYF prepares and publishes reports with detailed statistics.

**Source of Data:** Meeting with Children’s Action Alliance Staff and Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF), 1.6.2013.

- B. Challenges and opportunities have been identified based on data, such as economic condition of the community and state, number of young people entering and exiting care each year, dependence on congregate care, over-representation of youth and families of color in the child welfare system, and political climate; and partners have been identified who are willing to address the challenges.**

The initial development of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative will build on the previous work by CAA, ADES-DCYF and key partners to focus on youth transitioning from foster care. These efforts will focus on addressing current challenges and opportunities in order to expand opportunities for youth transitioning from foster care. Key trends such as the impact of the current economic indicators on educational and employment opportunities for young people will

be addressed by the planning team in the Implementation Plan. Several areas have been identified in which data has not been previously collected systematically in Arizona. For example, the complexities of tracking youth who are dual wards (adjudicated both dependent and delinquent) and youth who face barriers to education and employment due to developmental disabilities or their immigration status will be addressed. The implementation planning process will address approaches to collecting this data.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, *Transitions: Building Better Lives for Youth Leaving Foster Care, Update and Recommendations*, September 2005, Essential CPS Charts and Graphs, [www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org), February 5, 2013.

## B. DEMOGRAPHICS

### 1. Define the current target area(s) of the local initiative (geographically and overall population count).

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative will initially focus on youth transitioning from foster care in Maricopa County, Arizona's largest county and metropolitan area, eventually expanding statewide. Arizona became the 48th state on February 14, 1912. Approximately 6,498,570 people live in this state that includes fifteen counties, 22 Indian tribes, 113,594.08 square miles of desert, canyons, pine forests, mountain ranges, lakes and valleys. Arizona is located in the southwestern region of the United States, is the sixth largest by area and the 15th most populous of the 50 states.



**Source of Data:** Arizona State Government website, About Arizona (az.gov) United States Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2011.



According to 2012 population estimates, 60% of the state's population (3,884,706) reside in Maricopa County.

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION 2012</b>		
<b>State/County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>
United States (2010-2012)*	313,914,040	N/A
Arizona	6,498,570	2.0% of US
Apache	72,310	1.1%
Cochise	130,753	2.0%
Coconino	134,313	2.1%
Gila	53,627	.8%
Graham	37,313	.6%
Greenlee	8,599	.1%
La Paz	20,902	.3%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>3,884,706</b>	<b>59.8%</b>
Mohave	203,072	3.1%
Navajo	107,922	1.7%
Pima	990,380	15.2%
Pinal	389,192	6.0%
Santa Cruz	48,725	.7%
Yavapai	211,582	3.3%
Yuma	205,174	3.2%

**Note: Column percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

**Source of Data:** Arizona State Government website, About Arizona ([www.az.gov](http://www.az.gov)). AZ Population Projections 2012, (Medium Series) Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division-Table 1. \*Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012.

**2. Describe the population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-m below.**

**a. Age breakdown**

ARIZONA POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (PERCENT OF TOTAL 2012)													
State/ County	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6,498,570</b>
Apache	8%	9%	9%	9%	7%	6%	10%	12%	13%	10%	5%	2%	72,310
Cochise	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	11%	11%	14%	13%	8%	4%	130,753
Coconino	7%	7%	6%	10%	12%	7%	12%	12%	14%	9%	5%	2%	134,313
Gila	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	8%	11%	15%	16%	11%	5%	53,627
Graham	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%	13%	12%	11%	9%	5%	3%	37,313
Greenlee	7%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	12%	13%	14%	10%	6%	3%	8,599
La Paz	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%	9%	13%	20%	17%	6%	20,902
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3,884,706</b>
Mohave	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	9%	11%	15%	16%	12%	5%	203,072
Navajo	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	10%	12%	13%	11%	6%	3%	107,922
Pima	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	7%	12%	12%	14%	11%	7%	4%	990,380
Pinal	7%	8%	7%	6%	6%	7%	15%	13%	11%	11%	7%	3%	389,192
Santa Cruz	7%	8%	9%	8%	6%	5%	10%	12%	14%	11%	6%	3%	48,725
Yavapai	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	8%	11%	15%	17%	11%	6%	211,582
Yuma	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%	12%	12%	11%	10%	7%	4%	205,174

**Source of Data:** AZ Population Projections 2012-2050, (Medium Series) Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics, Table 2: POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX.

UNITED STATES POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (PERCENT OF TOTAL 2011)													
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
United States	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	12.9%	13.9%	13.6%	9.7%	5.3%	3.6%	306,110

**Source of Data:** U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2011. Table1. Population by Age and Sex: 2011.

**b. Gender breakdown**

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION BY GENDER (PERCENT OF TOTAL 2012)</b>			
<b>Statewide/County</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Population</b>
United States *(2011)	49.2%	50.8%	313,914,040
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>49.7%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>6,498,570</b>
Apache	49.8%	50.2%	72,310
Cochise	51.8%	49.2%	130,753
Coconino	49.6%	50.4%	134,313
Gila	49.7%	50.3%	53,627
Graham	52.9%	47.1%	37,313
Greenlee	52.1%	47.9%	8,599
La Paz	51.1%	48.9%	20,902
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>49.5%</b>	<b>50.5%</b>	<b>3,884,706</b>
Mohave	50.3%	49.7%	203,072
Navajo	49.9%	50.1%	107,922
Pima	49.2%	50.8%	990,380
Pinal	52.5%	47.5%	389,192
Santa Cruz	47.7%	52.3%	48,725
Yavapai	49.0%	51.0%	211,582
Yuma	50.4%	49.6%	205,174

**Source of Data:** AZ Population Projections 2012, (Medium Series) Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics, Table 2: POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX.

**Source of Data:**\*U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2011. Table1. Population by Age and Sex: 2011.

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION AGES 14-25 BY GENDER PERCENT OF TOTAL 2011</b>					
<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Males Percent of Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Females Percent of Total</b>	<b>Total Population Ages 14-25</b>
14	45,614	51%	43,709	49%	89,323
15	45,314	51%	43,303	49%	88,617
16	46,296	52%	43,545	48%	89,841
17	46,643	51%	44,487	49%	91,130
18	46,857	52%	43,470	48%	90,327
19	47,388	52%	43,409	48%	90,797
20	49,636	52%	45,932	48%	95,568
21	49,986	52%	46,337	48%	96,323
22	48,208	52%	44,768	48%	92,976
23	47,029	52%	43,305	48%	90,334
24	45,704	52%	42,476	48%	88,180
25	46,404	52%	42,995	48%	89,399
Total	565,079	52%	527,736	48%	1,092,815

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011.

**c. Race/Ethnicity breakdown**

ARIZONA POPULATION SHARE BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN 2012												
	NON-HISPANICS						HISPANICS					
Statewide/County	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Apache	20%	0%	0%	72%	2%	94%	3%	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%
Cochise	58%	4%	2%	1%	3%	67%	20%	0%	0%	0%	12%	33%
Coconino	54%	1%	1%	27%	2%	86%	7%	0%	0%	1%	6%	14%
Gila	65%	0%	1%	15%	1%	82%	11%	0%	0%	1%	6%	18%
Graham	52%	2%	1%	14%	1%	70%	20%	0%	0%	1%	10%	30%
Greenlee	48%	1%	1%	2%	1%	52%	29%	0%	0%	1%	18%	48%
La Paz	62%	1%	1%	11%	2%	76%	7%	0%	0%	2%	15%	24%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Mohave	79%	1%	1%	2%	2%	84%	8%	0%	0%	0%	7%	16%
Navajo	43%	1%	1%	43%	2%	89%	5%	0%	0%	1%	4%	11%
Pima	54%	3%	3%	2%	2%	65%	19%	0%	0%	1%	14%	35%
Pinal	58%	4%	2%	5%	2%	71%	14%	0%	0%	1%	14%	29%
Santa Cruz	15%	0%	1%	0%	0%	17%	58%	0%	0%	0%	25%	83%
Yavapai	81%	1%	1%	1%	2%	86%	8%	0%	0%	0%	6%	14%
Yuma	34%	2%	1%	1%	1%	39%	36%	0%	0%	1%	24%	61%

**Source of Data:** AZ Population Projections 2012, (Medium Series) Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics, TABLE 6: POPULATION SHARE BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN.

UNITED STATES POPULATION SHARE BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN (2015 Projection)														
	NON-HISPANICS							HISPANICS						
	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Total	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Total
<b>United States</b>	<b>61.75%</b>	<b>12.40%</b>	<b>5.12%</b>	<b>.74%</b>	<b>.17%</b>	<b>2.06%</b>	<b>82.24%</b>	<b>15.64%</b>	<b>.83%</b>	<b>.18%</b>	<b>.52%</b>	<b>.06%</b>	<b>.52%</b>	<b>17.76%</b>

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau, Table 6. Percent Distribution of the Projected Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States, 2015 (NP2012-T6).

ARIZONA POPULATION AGES 15-19 BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN PERCENT OF TOTAL 2012													
	NON-HISPANICS (59%)						HISPANICS (41%)						
ARIZONA Ages 15-19	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total	
	74%	10%	6%	10%	1%	275,638	89%	3%	2%	5%	0%	191,282	

**Source of Data:** U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012.

#### d. Languages spoken

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME BY ARIZONA CHILDREN AGES 5 YEARS AND OLDER PERCENT OF TOTAL 2007-2011							
Statewide County	English only	Language other than English	Spanish	Other Indo-European Languages	Asian and Pacific Islander Languages	Other Languages	Total Population 5 years and over
United States	79.7%	20.3%	12.6%	3.7%	3.2%	0.8%	286,433,395
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>72.9%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>5,875,518</b>
Apache	39.8%	60.2%	3.8%	0.5%	0.3%	55.6%	65,010
Cochise	72.5%	27.5%	23.8%	2.0%	1.5%	0.3%	121,999
Coconino	75.7 %	24.3 %	8.2%	0.8 %	1.0%	14.2%	123,940
Gila	83.9%	16.1%	9.5%	0.8%	0.1%	5.6%	50,273
Graham	79.4%	20.67%	14.9%	0.2%	0.3%	5.1%	33,666
Greenlee	79.1%	20.9%	19.8%	0.5%	0%	0.5%	7802
La Paz	81.3%	18.7%	16.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	19,500
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>26.5%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>3,508,559</b>
Mohave	89.4%	10.6%	8.3%	1.2%	0.6%	0.4%	189,360
Navajo	63.4%	36.6%	6.1%	0.5%	0.4%	29.6%	98,734
Pima	71.7%	28.3%	23.5%	1.9%	1.8%	1.2%	910,971
Pinal	76.8%	23.2%	19.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	323,526
Santa Cruz	20.3%	79.7%	78.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	43,053
Yavapai	89.2%	10.8%	8.2%	1.7%	0.4%	0.5%	200,191
Yuma	49.3%	50.7%	48.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%	178,934

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, L SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES: Language Spoken at Home for Population >5 years and over.

**e. Poverty rate**

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL 2007-2011</b>						
<b>Statewide/ County</b>	<b>All Families</b>	<b>Families with Children Under 18 Years</b>	<b>All Individuals</b>	<b>All Individuals under 18 Years</b>	<b>All Individuals 18-64</b>	<b>Individuals 65 Years+</b>
United States	10.5%	16.4%	14.3%	20.0%	13.1%	9.4%
Arizona	11.7%	18.5%	16.2%	22.9%	15.1%	8.2%
Apache	28.4%	36.0%	34.7%	41.9%	31.2%	28.3%
Cochise	11.6%	19.2%	16.2%	23.3%	15.1%	9.9%
Coconino	12.5%	17.9%	19.8%	23.0%	19.4%	13.9%
Gila	12.9%	27.5%	20.9%	32.6%	21.8%	7.2%
Graham	16.7%	23.1%	21.6%	28.3%	20.3%	11.0%
Greenlee	12.7%	16.3%	17.2%	23.4%	14.6%	15.5%
La Paz	14.0%	27.1%	19.4%	32.6%	23.4%	6.3%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
Mohave	11.5%	22.8%	16.8%	26.6%	17.0%	7.2%
Navajo	21.1%	31.0%	26.2%	35.3%	24.4%	13.3%
Pima	12.0%	19.8%	17.4%	24.3%	17.0%	8.6%
Pinal	10.5%	17.0%	14.3%	19.6%	13.4%	8.1%
Santa Cruz	21.1%	31.2%	26.2%	37.5%	22.1%	17.1%
Yavapai	10.0%	19.1%	14.9%	22.0%	16.2%	6.0%
Yuma	17.5%	25.6%	20.8%	29.9%	18.5%	12.2%

**Source of Data:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey DP03: SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL.

**f. Income level**

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION BY INCOME LEVEL 2007-2011</b>												
<b>Statewide/ County</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Median Earnings Workers</b>	<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000- \$14,999</b>	<b>\$15,000- \$24,999</b>	<b>\$25,000- \$34,999</b>	<b>\$35,000- \$49,999</b>	<b>\$50,000- \$74,999</b>	<b>\$75,000- \$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000- \$149,999</b>	<b>\$150,000- \$199,999</b>	<b>\$200,000 +</b>
United States	114,761,359	\$30,259	7.1%	5.4%	10.6%	10.4%	13.8%	18.3%	12.4%	12.7%	4.7%	4.5%
Arizona	2,344,215	\$29,870	7.1%	5.1%	10.8%	11.2%	15.1%	19.0%	12.3%	12.0%	3.9%	3.5%
Apache	18,953	\$22,623	20.0%	9.6%	13.0%	12.3%	14.0%	15.5%	7.7%	5.9%	1.1%	0.9%
Cochise	48,917	\$25,538	8.4%	6.1%	11.3%	12.5%	15.5%	18.2%	11.8%	11.0%	3.1%	2.0%
Coconino	45,266	\$22,374	9.0%	6.2%	9.9%	10.6%	14.6%	18.2%	12.9%	12.3%	3.8%	2.5%
Gila	19,924	\$25,925	10.6%	6.5%	16.2%	13.6%	15.6%	19.1%	8.7%	7.2%	1.4%	1.1%
Graham	11,100	\$25,281	10.4%	6.8%	14.1%	9.5%	14.8%	22.1%	11.2%	8.7%	1.7%	0.7%
Greenlee	3,292	\$34,993	7.9%	4.6%	12.5%	7.9%	18.4%	27.0%	13.5%	7.4%	0.8%	0.0%
La Paz	10,374	\$24,184	9.5%	8.7%	18.8%	16.7%	18.2%	14.6%	5.7%	6.1%	0.70%	0.9%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>1,394,016</b>	<b>\$32,020</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Mohave	80,389	\$23,131	7.2%	7.3%	14.2%	13.5%	18.6%	19.9%	9.6%	6.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Navajo	34,921	\$23,773	12.7%	7.3%	14.2%	11.9%	14.1%	18.8%	10.1%	8.6%	1.6%	0.8%
Pima	382,366	\$26,511	8.3%	6.2%	11.9%	12.2%	14.7%	18.1%	11.5%	10.8%	3.4%	3.0%
Pinal	121,281	\$31,280	6.8%	4.1%	10.4%	11.0%	16.4%	22.6%	14.3%	10.2%	2.6%	1.6%
Santa Cruz	13,114	\$20,646	11.8%	8.2%	14.4%	11.3%	15.2%	15.1%	9.2%	10.5%	2.0%	2.1%
Yavapai	90,309	\$24,620	7.5%	6.0%	12.7%	12.8%	17.4%	18.6%	11.1%	8.9%	2.6%	2.3%
Yuma	69,993	\$22,382	7.7%	6.6%	13.6%	14.3%	16.5%	20.5%	9.5%	7.9%	1.9%	1.4%

**Source of Data:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey DP03: SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS INCOME (IN 2011 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS).

**g. Unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday)**

**NOTE: Arizona data available for Young People ages 16-24.**

<b>ARIZONA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AGE 16 YEARS AND OLDER FOR 2012</b>			
<b>Statewide/County</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate Population 16* years and older</b>	<b>Unemployment rate for Youth 16-19**</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate for Youth 20-24**</b>
United States (2012)	8.1%	24.0%	22.3%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
Apache	18.9%	N	N
Cochise	7.9%	N	N
Coconino	8.2%	N	N
Gila	9.5%	N	N
Graham	9.2%	N	N
Greenlee	6.2%	N	N
La Paz	9.5%	N	N
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
Mohave	9.6%	N	N
Navajo	14.9%	N	N
Pima	7.3%	N	N
Pinal	8.8%	N	N
Santa Cruz	16.7%	N	N
Yavapai	8.7%	N	N
Yuma	27.7%	N	N

**Source of Data:** \* ARIZONA DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION, EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION STATISTICS, CES/LAUS UNIT, in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted) Arizona Unemployment Statistics Program Special Unemployment Report 2012.

\*\*United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2012.

**Note:** Seasonally adjusted data is currently available for U.S. and Arizona Statewide only. County data is not available (N) Universe is civilian non-institutional population 16 years of age and over.



**h. High school graduation rate of young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday)**

**NOTE: Data was available for Arizona Youth 18-24 years of age.**

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION HIGHEST LEVEL of EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR AGES 18-24 2007-2011</b>				
<b>Statewide/County</b>	<b>Less than High School Graduate</b>	<b>High School Diploma or GED only)</b>	<b>Some College or Associate's Degree</b>	<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>
United States	16.7%	30.2%	43.9%	9.3%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
Apache	27.3%	39.9%	32.3%	0.5%
Cochise	20.2%	32.9%	42.2%	4.7%
Coconino	12.0%	26.1%	55.2%	6.7%
Gila	29.7%	41.0%	27.3%	2.0%
Graham	24.2%	33.0%	41.1%	1.6%
Greenlee	18.6%	37.2%	40.8%	3.4%
La Paz	33.1%	49.6%	16.2%	1.1%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Mohave	30.9%	35.2%	31.2%	2.7%
Navajo	35.7%	32.9%	28.5%	3.0%
Pima	16.7%	27.1%	48.7%	7.5%
Pinal	31.5%	34.8%	30.2%	3.6%
Santa Cruz	36.0%	26.1%	34.9%	3.1%
Yavapai	26.5%	31.0%	39.0%	3.5%
Yuma	24.5%	37.5%	35.4%	2.6%

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT POPULATION 18-24 YEARS OF AGE. NOTE: Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. Margin of error is significant for several of the smaller counties and should be taken into consideration.

**i. Percentage of young people age 18 to age 26 with any kind of medical insurance**

**NOTE: Data was available for Arizona Youth 18-24 years of age.**

<b>ARIZONA POPULATION HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 18-24 2009-2011</b>					
<b>Statewide/County</b>	<b>Young People 18-24 WITHOUT Health Insurance</b>		<b>Young People 18-24 WITH Health Insurance</b>		<b>Total Population</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Young People 18-24</b>
United States	4,767,296	32%	10,238,767	68%	15,006,063
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>106,431</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>206,504</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>312,935</b>
Apache	1,736	47%	1,959	53%	3,695
Cochise	1,346	27%	3,629	73%	4,975
Coconino	3,054	26%	8,613	74%	11,667
Gila	842	43%	1,118	57%	1,960
Graham	571	27%	1,544	73%	2,115
Greenlee	Not available				
La Paz	355	63%	209	37%	564
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>67,431</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>124,992</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>192,423</b>
Mohave	2,285	34%	4,450	66%	6,735
Navajo	1,891	37%	3,277	63%	5,168
Pima	15,258	29%	37,088	71%	52,346
Pinal	4,608	36%	8,215	64%	12,823
Santa Cruz	492	25%	1,484	75%	1,976
Yavapai	2,452	31%	5,490	69%	7,942
Yuma	4,051	49%	4,289	51%	8,340

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau Table B27001HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS BY SEX BY AGE - Universe: Civilian non-institutionalized population 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

**j. Housing vacancy rate**

<b>ARIZONA HOUSING VACANCY RATE 2007-2011</b>			
<b>Statewide/County</b>	<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>Vacant Housing Units</b>	<b>Occupied Housing Units</b>
United States	131,034,946	12.4%	87.6%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>2,816,719</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>83.2%</b>
Apache	32,511	41.7%	58.3%
Cochise	58,768	16.8%	83.2%
Coconino	62,944	28.1%	71.9%
Gila	32,470	38.6%	61.4%
Graham	12,809	13.3%	86.7%
Greenlee	4,287	23.2%	76.8%
La Paz	16,041	35.3%	64.7%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>1,620,963</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>86.0%</b>
Mohave	109,997	26.9%	73.1%
Navajo	56,534	38.2%	61.8%
Pima	438,892	12.9%	87.1%
Pinal	155,504	22.0%	78.0%
Santa Cruz	17,816	26.4%	73.6%
Yavapai	109,634	17.6%	82.4%
Yuma	87,549	20.1%	79.9%

**Note: Vacant Housing Units.** A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of the interview, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. In addition, a vacant unit may be one which is entirely occupied by persons who have a usual residence elsewhere. New units not yet occupied are classified as vacant housing units if construction has reached a point where all exterior windows and doors are installed and final usable floors are in place. Vacant units are excluded if they are exposed to the elements, that is, if the roof, walls, windows, or doors no longer protect the interior from the elements, or if there is positive evidence (such as a sign on the house or block) that the unit is to be demolished or is condemned. Also excluded are quarters being used entirely for nonresidential purposes, such as a store or an office, or quarters used for the storage of business supplies or inventory, machinery, or agricultural products. Vacant sleeping rooms in lodging houses, transient accommodations, barracks, and other quarters not defined as housing units are not included in the statistics in this report.

**Occupied Housing Units.** A housing unit is occupied if a person or group of persons is living in it at the time of the interview or if the occupants are only temporarily absent, as for example, on vacation. The persons living in the unit must consider it their usual place of residence or have no usual place of residence elsewhere. The count of occupied housing units is the same as the count of households

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates AZ Demographic Profile 2010, AZ and Counties, AZ Department of Administration Office of Employment and Population Statistics.

**k. Average rental rate for a two-bedroom apartment**

<b>ARIZONA FAIR MARKET RENT 2013</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>1 Bedroom Apartment (Monthly)</b>	<b>2 Bedroom Apartment (Monthly)</b>
Apache	\$463	\$626
Cochise	\$569	\$712
Coconino	\$852	\$1066
Gila	\$541	\$729
Graham	\$546	\$650
Greenlee	\$463	\$626
La Paz	\$500	\$677
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>\$748</b>	<b>\$925</b>
Mohave	\$603	\$769
Navajo	\$502	\$679
Pima	\$651	\$876
Pinal	\$748	\$925
Santa Cruz	\$546	\$677
Yavapai	\$648	\$819
Yuma	\$591	\$780

**Source of Data:** US Department of Housing and Urban Development –Arizona Final FY 2013 FMR Summary.

**Note:** Fair Market Rents (FMRs) are primarily used to determine payment standard amounts for the Housing Choice Voucher program, to determine initial renewal rents for some expiring project-based Section 8 contracts, to determine initial rents for housing assistance payment (HAP) contracts in the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program (Mod Rehab), and to serve as a rent ceiling in the HOME rental assistance program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually estimates FMRs for 530 metropolitan areas and 2,045 nonmetropolitan county FMR areas. By law the final FMRs for use in any fiscal year must be published and available for use at the start of that fiscal year, on October 1. FMRs are gross rent estimates. They include the shelter rent plus the cost of all tenant-paid utilities, except telephones, cable or satellite television service, and internet service. HUD sets.

NOTE: US Fair Market Rent-not available.

## I. Average home price

<b>ARIZONA MEDIAN HOME VALUE 2007-2011</b>	
<b>State/County</b>	<b>Median Value of Owner Occupied Unit</b>
United States	\$186,200
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>\$197,400</b>
Apache	\$83,200
Cochise	\$155,700
Coconino	\$246,600
Gila	\$154,200
Graham	\$121,100
Greenlee	\$73,200
La Paz	\$95,700
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>\$219,300</b>
Mohave	\$158,200
Navajo	\$130,400
Pima	\$190,500
Pinal	\$144,500
Santa Cruz	\$152,700
Yavapai	\$216,900
Yuma	\$138,600

**Source of Data:** US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey Selected Housing Characteristics 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Median value of owner-occupied housing units. Note: **Value** is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot) would sell for if it were for sale. This tabulation includes only specified owner-occupied housing units--one-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property. These data exclude mobile homes, houses with a business or medical office, houses on 10 or more acres, and housing units in multi-unit structures. Certain tabulations elsewhere include the value of all owner-occupied housing units and vacant-for-sale housing units. Also available are data on mortgage status and selected monthly owner costs.

**m. Percentage of young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) that are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness**

**NOTE: Arizona data available for youth 18-24.**

ARIZONA YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 2012						
County	Single Adults 18-24 On Their Own		Total Single Adults 18 Years and Older On Their Own	Single Adults (18-24) in Families		Total Single Adults in Families
	Number	Percent of Total Single Adults		Number	Percent of Total Single Adults in Families	
Maricopa	900	11.3%	7965	661	23.9%	2766
Pima	1011	10.0%	9917	Not Available		
Balance of State	315	11.4%	2773	113	19.7%	573

**Source of Data:** Homeless in Arizona 2012 Annual Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Appendices, HMIS Data, December 2012.

**NOTE:** “Unaccompanied homeless youth, often referred to as youth on their own, are the most difficult subpopulation of homelessness to quantify. This category includes young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes or abandoned by parents or guardians. It also includes youth who have aged out of the foster care system and have no resources or family connections on which to rely. This year HUD redefined children and youth. HUD previously defined children and youth as under the age of 18. Children are now defined as under the age of 18 and youth are defined as between the ages of 18 and 24. Mid-year changes in the definition of children and youth have made quantifying this population through HMIS reporting unreliable for SFY 2012 since 18 to 24 year olds were previously counted as adults. HMIS reporting and tracking changes are being implemented for future years.”(Homeless in Arizona 2012 Annual Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, p.8.)

### **3. Describe the child welfare population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-k below.**

#### **Data Limitations**

Data for the following section is based on published reports by the Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families. Two reports published by ADES-DCYF provide the most current data describing Arizona's foster care population. These reports include:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports –October 1, 2011-March 31, 2012, p. 34 and April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012.*
- Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program 2011 Annual Report, June 2012 and 2012 Annual Report, February, 2013.*

The majority of data collected reflects reports for 2012 utilizing three different time periods. These include:

- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY 2012) - October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012
- State Fiscal Year (SFY 2012) - July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012
- Calendar Year (CY 2012) - January 1-December 31, 2012.

In some instances, the data elements cannot be combined for further analyses due to the varying time periods for data collection. For some metrics, data represents a snapshot on the last day of a six-month period and others represent annualized figures. Eligibility guidelines also determine the eligible pool of potential youth. Services such as the Transitional Independent Living Program and Education and Training Vouchers are made available to any legal resident of Arizona who at age 16 or older was in any state or federally recognized tribal foster care program whereas the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) program is restricted to youth in ADES custody on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The most current and appropriate data from the ADES-DCYF reports was used to address each of the specific areas in the Environmental Scan. For example, data was available for youth ages 16-21 or 18-21 in many cases but not up to age 26.

a. Number of children in foster care

ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON LAST DAY OF 6 MONTH PERIOD FFY 1998-2012	
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	Total
October 1997 - March 1998	6,304
April 1998 - September 1998	6,708
October 1998 - March 1999	6,783
April 1999 - September 1999	6,668
October 1999 - March 2000	7,054
April 2000 - September 2000	6,612
October 2000 - March 2001	6,254
April 1, 2001 - September 30, 2001	6,121
October 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002	6,104
April 1, 2002 - September 30, 2002	6,270
October 1, 2002 - March 31, 2003	6,826
April, 2003 - September 30, 2003	7,535
October 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004	8,246
April 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004	8,839
Oct 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005	9,536
April 1, 2005 - September 30, 2005	9,906
October 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006	9,902
April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006	9,833
October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007	9,773
April 1, 2007 - September 30, 2007	9,701
October 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008	9,721
April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008	10,303
October 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009	10,404
April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009	10,112
October 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010	10,207
April 1, 2010 - September 30, 2010	10,514
October 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011	10,707
April 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011	11,535
October 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012	12,453
April 1, 2012 - September 30, 2012	14,111

**Source of Data** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports* compiled by compiled by the Children’s Action Alliance – Most Recent -April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012.p.42.

**Note: US Children in Foster Care FY 11 (September 30, 2011) =401,000** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, ([www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb)), AFCARS data.



<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FFY 2012 (12 MONTHS)</b>				
<b>Arizona/County</b>	<b>Number of Children Removed</b>	<b>% of Total Removals</b>	<b>Voluntary Placements (under age 18)</b>	<b>% of Total Voluntary Placements (under age 18)</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>10684</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Apache	49	0.5%	0	0.0%
Cochise	145	1.4%	6	2.3%
Coconino	103	1.0%	18	6.8%
Gila	97	.9%	4	1.5%
Graham	65	0.6%	0	0.0%
Greenlee	7	0.1%	0	0.0%
La Paz	33	0.3%	0	0.0%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>6085</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>39.5%</b>
Mohave	245	2.3%	8	3.0%
Navajo	147	1.4%	11	4.1%
Pima	2632	24.6%	100	37.6%
Pinal	615	5.7%	2	0.1%
Santa Cruz	20	0.2%	0	0.0%
Yavapai	271	2.5%	8	3.0%
Yuma	170	1.6%	4	1.5%

**Source of Data** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports –October 1,2011-March 31,2012, p. 34 and April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012.p.34. Note:* FFY 2012-October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012.

**b. Number of children in foster care, by age (please provide age range)**

<b>ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE 0-18 AND OLDER ON 9.30.2012</b>		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Under 1 year	1,144	8.1%
1	1,202	8.5%
2	1,001	7.1%
3	960	6.8%
4	912	6.5%
5	874	6.2%
6	791	5.6%
7	706	5.0%
8	618	4.4%
9	540	3.8%
10	518	3.7%
11	466	3.3%
12	477	3.4%
13	510	3.6%
14	540	3.8%
15	682	4.8%
16	778	5.5%
17	790	5.6%
18 and older	602	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,111</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

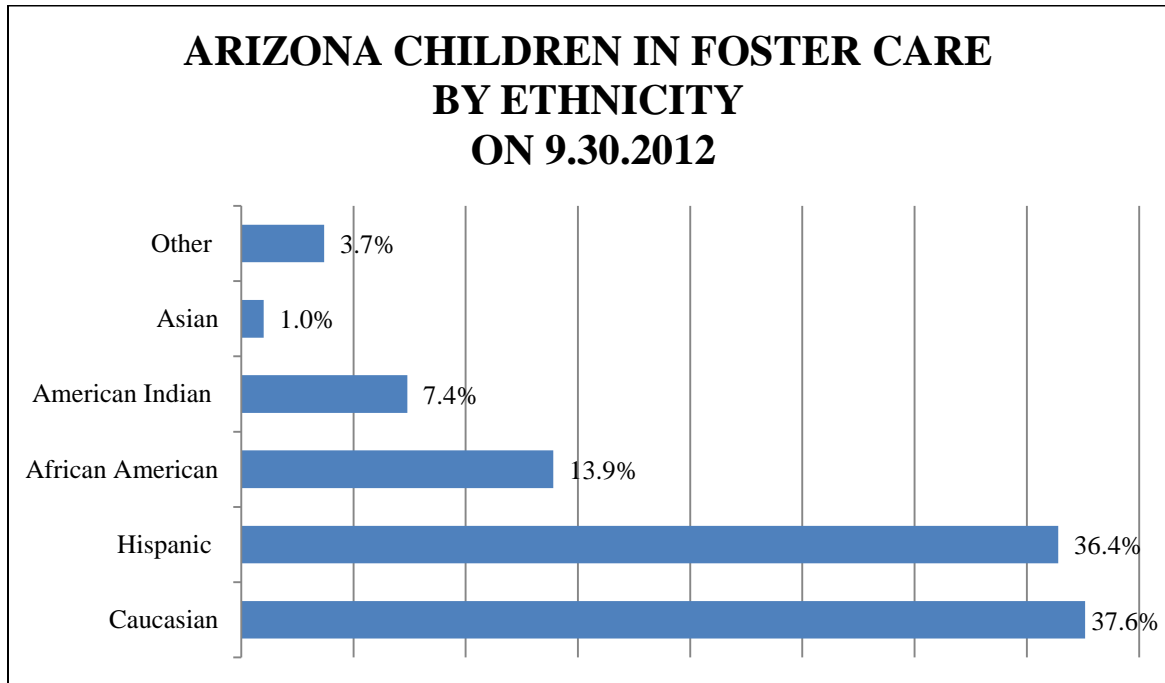
**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012.P. 42.*

**c. Number of young people in foster care age 14 and older (up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, by gender)**

Source of Data: not available in ADES published reports.

**d. Number of young people in foster care age 14 and older (up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) by race/ethnicity**

ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY ETHNICITY AGES 0-18 YEARS AND OLDER ON 9.30.2012							
Year	Caucasian	Hispanic	African American	American Indian	Asian	Other	Total
September 30, 2012	5286 (37.6%)	5142 (36.4%)	1967 (13.9%)	1041 (7.4%)	147 (1.0%)	528 (3.7%)	14,111 (100.0%)



Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012.P. 40 (All ages).

**e. Number of young people in foster care age 14 and older (up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, by language spoken)**

Source of Data: not available in ADES published reports.

**f. Number of children in foster care, by placement type**

<b>ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE AND AGE ON 9.30.2012</b>									
Age	Relative	Family Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Treatment	Independent Living	Runaway	Trial Home Visit	Total	% of Total
Under 1	433	700	2	7	0	1	1	1,144	8.1%
1	519	671	1	9	0	0	2	1,202	8.5%
2	463	513	8	11	0	1	5	1,001	7.1%
3	476	456	9	16	0	0	3	960	6.8%
4	440	430	21	16	0	1	4	912	6.5%
5	416	419	15	16	0	1	7	874	6.2%
6	368	375	28	17	0	0	3	791	5.6%
7	354	301	36	12	0	0	3	706	5.0%
8	301	270	26	16	0	1	4	618	4.4%
9	242	239	44	13	0	0	22	540	3.8%
10	212	231	56	17	0	0	2	518	3.7%
11	199	188	57	18	0	0	4	466	3.3%
12	185	191	67	32	0	0	2	477	3.4%
13	176	178	102	52	0	0	2	510	3.6%
14	160	163	131	61	0	24	1	540	3.8%
15	149	203	190	94	0	41	5	682	4.8%
16	159	196	240	114	3	62	4	778	5.5%
17	126	183	255	116	9	98	3	790	5.6%
18 & older	27	79	56	88	313	38	1	602	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5405</b>	<b>5986</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>14,111</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012*. P. 42.

For youth ages 16, 17, 18 and older, they are more likely to live in group homes or residential treatment than with a relative or foster family.

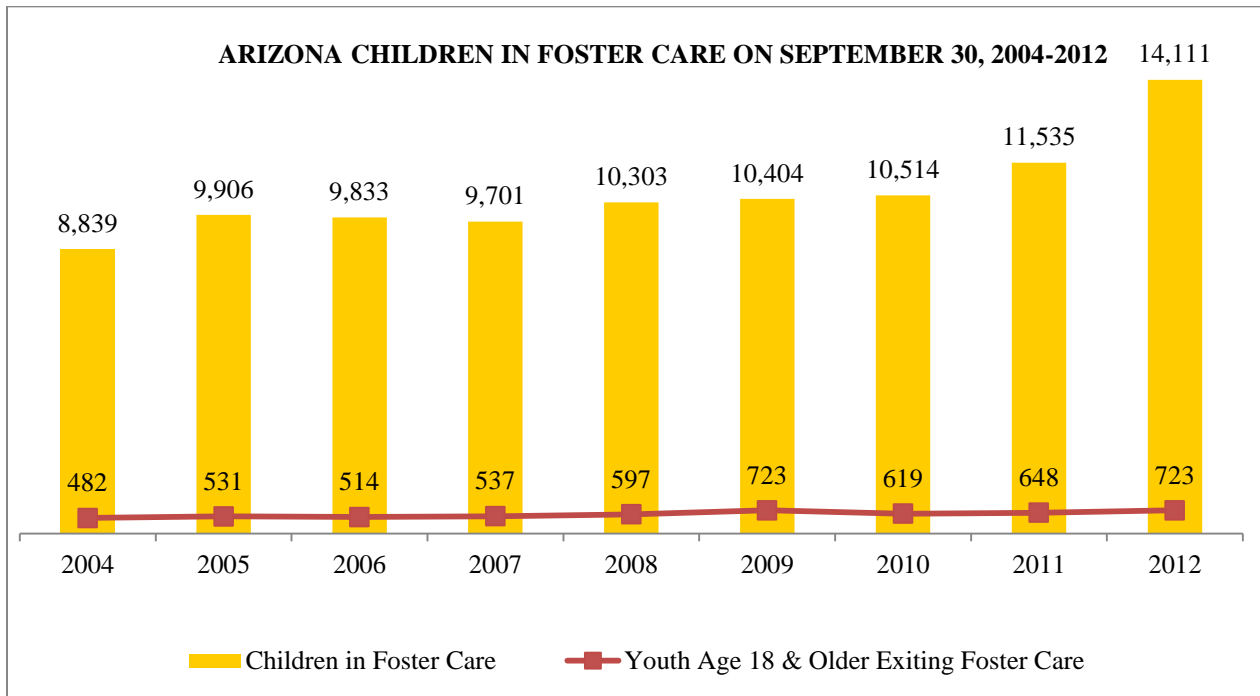
<b>ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 14 YEARS AND OLDER BY PLACEMENT TYPE ON 9.30.2012</b>									
Age	Relative	Family Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Treatment	Independent Living	Runaway	Trial Home Visit	Total	
<b>14</b>	160	163	131	61	0	24	1	540	
<b>15</b>	149	203	190	94	0	41	5	682	
<b>16</b>	159	196	240	114	3	62	4	778	
<b>17</b>	126	183	255	116	9	98	3	790	
<b>Total 14-17</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2790</b>	
<b>Percent of Total 14-17</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>18 &amp; older</b>	27	79	56	88	313	38	1	602	
<b>Percent of Total 18 &amp; Older</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Total 14&amp; Older</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3392</b>	

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012*, p.42.

**g. Number of young people aging out of foster care on an annual basis**

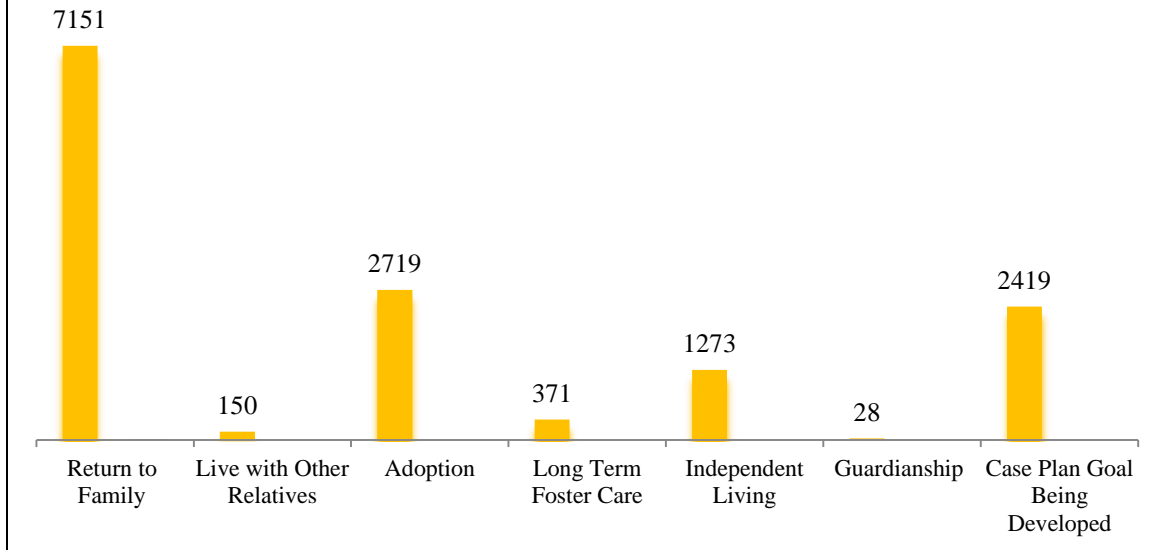
<b>NUMBER OF ARIZONA YOUTH (AGE 18&amp;Older) EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING A 12 MONTH TIME PERIOD</b>		
<b>Report Period (FFY)</b>	<b>Number of Youth Exiting Care Reason: Reaching age of Majority</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Youth Exiting Care</b>
FFY 2004 - October 1,2003-September 30,2004	482	8.7%
FFY 2005 - October 1,2004-September 30,2005	531	8.5%
FFY 2006 - October 1,2005-September 30,2006	514	7.2%
FFY 2007 - October 1,2006-September 30,2007	537	7.3%
FFY 2008 - October 1,2007-September 30,2008	597	8.2%
FFY 2009 - October 1,2008-September 30,2009	723	9.6%
FFY 2010 - October 1,2009-September 30,2010	619	8.6%
FFY 2011 - October 1,2010-September 30,2011	648	9.0%
FFY 2012 - October 1,2011-September 30,2012	723	9.9%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports* (2003-2012) compiled by the Children’s Action Alliance.



NOTE: Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2004-2012. Youth Age 18 & Older Exiting Foster Care reflect the number of youth exiting care during a 12 month period ending on September 30, 2004-2012 for Reason: Reaching Age of Majority and includes youth 18 & older exiting extended voluntary foster care.

**ARIZONA CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY  
CASE PLAN GOAL ON 9.30.2012**



**NOTE:** “According to ADES-DCYF youth with a case plan goal of independent living are typically 16 years and older.”

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2012-September 30, 2012 on 9.30.2012.p.40.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, page 164.

<b>CHILDREN EXITING DES CUSTODY BY REASON AND RACE AND ETHNICITY FOR PERIOD 4.1.2012 TO 9.30.2012 (6 Months)</b>									
Race or Ethnicity	Guardianship	Transfer to Another Agency	Runaway	Death	Reunification with Parent/Caretaker	Relative Placement	Adoption	Age of Majority (18)	Total Children Exiting From DES Custody
Caucasian	35.5%	17.6%	34.0%	50.0%	38.6%	36.5%	39.9%	41.80%	38.6%
Hispanic	40.4%	10.8%	34.0%	25.0%	34.5%	31.7%	39.1%	32.30%	35.4%
African American	11.7%	17.6%	14.9%	0.00%	14.3%	4.9%	15.1%	16.90%	14.5%
American Indian	8.6%	52.6%	6.4%	0.0%	6.8%	17.1%	4.4%	6.40%	7.3%
Asian	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	1.30%	0.9%
Other	2.1%	1.4%	10.8%	25.0%	5.0%	9.8%	0.5%	1.30%	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.00%	100.0%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families, Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report for April 1-September 30, 2012. Number and Percentage of Children Leaving DES Custody for Reasons of Reaching Age of Majority for the Reporting Period ending March 31, 2012,pps 50-58.

<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (AYAP) AND EDUCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT ENROLLMENT CY 2012 (12 MONTHS)</b>		
<b>County by Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Apache	6	0%
Cochise	11	1%
Coconino	17	1%
Gila	5	0%
Graham	1	0%
Greenlee	1	0%
La Paz	2	0%
<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>65%</b>
Mohave	38	2%
Navajo	15	1%
Pima	294	19%
Pinal	93	6%
Santa Cruz	1	0%
Yavapai	54	3%
Yuma	20	1%
Total	1,572	100%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families (ADES-CYF), *Independent Living Program/Education 2012 Annual Report*, (ARS § 8-521), February 2013. **Note:** Age range 14-20 years.

<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (AYAP) PARTICIPANTS AGES 16-21 CY 2012 (12 MONTHS)</b>	
CY 2010	1,544
CY 2011	1,512
CY 2012	1,867

**Note:** Total based on youth in care on last day of calendar year plus youth discharged during year.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, pages 165. Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

<b>ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 18-21 IN VOLUNTARY FOSTER CARE 2010-2012</b>			
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER IN VOLUNTARY FOSTER CARE ON LAST DAY OF REPORTING PERIOD</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER RE-ENTERING CARE BETWEEN 18-21 (CY)</b>
FFY 2010 (9.30.2010)	591	CY 2010	27
FFY 2011 (9.30.2011)	613	CY 2011	38
FFY 2012 (9.30.2012)	602	CY 2012	Not available

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, pages 165 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

Of 648 young adults aging out in FFY 2011, 48% exited care on their eighteenth birthday or shortly thereafter. The remaining 52% of youth (337 of 648) participated in continued voluntary foster care (at least two months past the eighteenth birthday) prior to discharge from care. For those youth:

- 36% remained in care to age 21
- 13% exited care during their 20th year
- 15% exited care during their 19th year, and
- 36% exited care during their 18th year.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, pages 165 and 173.

ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 18-21 PARTICIPATING IN TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (TILP) CY 2010-2012	
YEAR	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
CY 2010	201
CY 2011	160
CY 2012	221

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, pages 169 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 17-21 PARTICIPATING IN INDEPENDENT LIVING SUBSIDY PROGRAM (ILSP) SFY 2010-2012			
YEAR	NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (17 and Older)	NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 17 AND OLDER) ENROLLED	PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (17 AND OLDER) ENROLLED
SFY 2010	Not available	522	36%
SFY 2011	1153	496	43%
SFY 2012	1080	451	42%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report. Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program June 2012*, pages 165 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

**h. Unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) formerly in foster care**

**NOTE: Data is Available for Youth Age 17-21 enrolled in Independent Living Program (ILP) and Youth Age 18-21 in the Transitional Living Program (TILP).**

ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 17-21 PARTICIPATING IN INDEPENDENT LIVING OR TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM WHO WERE EMPLOYED CY 2010-2012						
YEAR	INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) (IN CARE)			TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (TILP) (OUT OF CARE)		
	NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 17 -21) ENROLLED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 17-21) EMPLOYED		NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18 -21) ENROLLED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) EMPLOYED	
		#	%		#	%
CY 2010	833	262	31%	201	74	37%
CY 2011	912	313	34%	160	27	17%
CY 2012	1080	319	30%	221	52	25%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 174 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

**i. High school graduation rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) formerly in foster care**

**NOTE: Data is Available for Youth Age 18-21 enrolled in Independent Living Program (ILP) and Youth Age 18-21 in the Transitional Living Program (TILP).**

ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 18-21 ENROLLED IN INDEPENDENT LIVING OR TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM WHO COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR OBTAINED A GED CY 2010-2012						
YEAR	INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) (IN CARE)			TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (TILP) (OUT OF CARE)		
	NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) WHO COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR GED		NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) WHO COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR GED	
		#	%		#	%
CY 2010	526	402	76%	201	92	46%
CY 2011	553	404	73%	160	53	33%
CY 2012	910	567	62%	221	100	45%

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 173 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.



ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 18-21 ENROLLED IN INDEPENDENT LIVING OR TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM WHO ARE ENROLLED IN OR COMPLETED A COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GED CY 2010-2012						
YEAR	INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) (IN CARE)			TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (TILP) (OUT OF CARE)		
	NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED WITH COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED IN OR COMPLETED A COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GED		NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED WITH COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GED	ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS (AGE 18-21) ENROLLED IN OR COMPLETED A COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GED	
		#	%		#	%
CY 2010	N/A	N/A	97%	N/A	N/A	46%
CY 2011	432	432	87%	N/A	72	45%
CY 2012	467	385	82%	100	38	38%

**NOTE: N/A – Data not available.**

**Source of Data:** Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 173 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS (ETV) AWARDED FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SFY 2011-2013		
YEAR	NUMBER OF NEW ETV'S AWARDED	TOTAL ETV'S AWARDED (INCLUDING RENEWALS)
SFY 2011 (7.1.2010-6.30.2011)	242	400
SFY 2012 (7.1.2011-6.30.2012)	105	309
SFY 2013 (7.1.2012.-6.30.2013)	N/A	369*

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 167. and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013.

**\*Source of Data:** Foster Care To Success Presentation Handout, July 24, 2013.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT ENROLLMENT BY GRADE 2012 (12 MONTHS)	
Grade	Number of Youth
Below 7	0
7	0
8	13
9	52
10	299
11	493
12	305
Post-Secondary	250
Not in School (includes youth who have graduated high school or received GED and are working instead of pursuing secondary education.	160
Total	1572

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF), *Independent Living Program/Education 2012 Annual Report*, ARS § 8-521, February, 2013.

**j. Percentage of young people formerly in foster care age 18 to age 25 (up to 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) that are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness**

**NOTE: Data is available for homeless youth 18-24 served by programs such as shelters reporting data to the Homeless Management Information Systems and identified their prior living arrangement as foster care /group home.**

ARIZONA HOMELESS YOUTH AGE 18-24 WHO IDENTIFY THEIR PRIOR LIVING SITUATION AS FOSTER CARE/GROUP HOME SFY 2012			
County	Homeless Single Adults Age 18-24		
	# Formerly in Foster Care/Group Home	% of Total Formerly in Foster Care/Group Home	Total Age 18-24
Maricopa	19	2%	900
Pima	42	4%	1011
Balance of State	6	.2%	315

**Source of Data:** *Homeless in Arizona 2012 Annual Report*, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Appendices, HMIS Data, December 2012.

NOTE: “Unaccompanied homeless youth, often referred to as youth on their own, are the most difficult subpopulation of homelessness to quantify. This category includes young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes or abandoned by parents or guardians. It also includes youth who have aged out of the foster care system and have no resources or family connections on which to rely. This year HUD redefined children and youth. HUD previously defined children and youth as under the age of 18. Children are now defined as under the age of 18 and youth are defined as between the ages of 18 and 24. Mid-year changes in the definition of children and youth have made quantifying this population through HMIS reporting unreliable for SFY 2012 since 18 to 24 year olds were previously counted as adults. HMIS reporting and tracking changes are being implemented for future years.” p.8.

**k. Current and Former foster youth (18-21 years) enrolled in Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) Program under AHCCCS –Medicaid (ARS § 36-2901).**

ARIZONA POPULATION OF YOUTH CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE ENROLLED IN YOUNG ADULT TRANSITIONAL INSURANCE (YATI) (12 MONTHS)	
YEAR	ENROLLMENT
CY 2011	523
CY 2012	613

**Source of data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, pages 169 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 7.19 and 7.22.2013 \*Arizona-specific item added to Environmental Scan Outline.

**4. Is the public child welfare system in your state administered by the state or the county, or both?**

The Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF) is the state administered child welfare services agency. The Division provides child protective services; family support, preservation, and reunification services; family foster care and kinship care services; services to promote the safety, permanence and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families; adoption promotion and support services, and health care services for children in out-of-home care. Arizona’s fifteen counties are divided into five DCYF regions. The Central, Southwest and Pima regions encompass the state’s urban areas. The Northern and Southwest regions are rural. The counties within each region are:

Arizona Department of Economic Security Administrative Regions					
Region	Central	Southwest	Pima	Northern	Southeast
Counties	Eastern Maricopa	Western Maricopa	Pima	Apache	Cochise
	Pinal	Yuma		Coconino	Gila
		La Paz		Mohave	Graham
				Navajo	Greenlee
				Yavapai	Santa Cruz

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report 2012*. Section 1: Description of State Agency, page 1.

## C. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Objective:** To prepare young people to be meaningfully involved as decision makers and self-advocates.

### 5. Describe how young people are involved in designing, implementing and evaluating the child welfare system that serves them.

ADES-DCYF provides support for Youth Advisory Boards at the local and state level. State Youth Advisory Board members were engaged in the following initiatives in 2012:

- Informing administrators about issues facing youth in care, reviewing policy, and legislative proposals, etc. For example, youth from the Maricopa Youth Advisory Board collaborated with group home owners in Maricopa County to establish a countywide Cell Phone policy to be used at all group homes. This advocacy by the youth empowered them in understanding they have the ability to make change.
- Participating in statewide foster and adoptive home recruitment efforts and training.
- Planning and facilitating a statewide youth conference attended by approximately 75 foster youth ages 16 and older. The Arizona Statewide Youth Conference, held in Flagstaff June 26-28, 2013, was the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the annual conference.
- Developing and coordinating training for Judges, Foster Care Review Board Members, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), CPS Specialists, group home staff, foster and adoptive parents.
- State and local Youth Advisory Boards and alumni groups such as Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) In My Shoes mentoring programs provide forums for teens and young adults to connect, and to express their needs and recommendations in the development and refinement of services and programs. Youth in care and alumni continue to participate in the State Youth Advisory Board, where youth study issues, identify solutions and make recommendations for positive change.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.171-173 and Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2011*, p.177.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Statewide Youth Conference 2013, Program, June 26-28, 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately two thirds of survey respondents lacked sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of the ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards.

**Q.3 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	2.37%	7.69%	11.83%	10.65%	0%	67.46%	100%
<b>Number</b>	4	13	20	18	0	114	169

Comments were indicative of stakeholders not knowing about Youth Advisory Boards’ role or influence. For example:

*“I honestly do not know if DES is listening to the suggestions from the youth.”*

*“I do not know what these Boards do-- maybe our Review Board (FCRB) could be educated.”*

*“I feel like the Youth Advisory Boards are mostly effective as an outlet for Youth in Foster Care to express themselves and have a chance to meet other youth in similar situations to themselves. I am not sure that they are listened to by the policy makers as much as they should be, but again I feel it is a great way for youth to be able to at least express themselves in a productive way.”*

*“The most important component is Youth. We must hear them and let them know we are for their best interest.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents resulted in similar findings including:

- Half of the survey respondents lacked sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of the ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards.

**Q. 7 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	10.71%	3.57%	17.86%	10.71%	7.14%	50%	
<b>Number</b>	3	1	5	3	2	14	28

Comments reflected the lack of awareness about Youth Advisory Board activities. For example:

*“Has its place, but many providers and foster families know nothing about it or its initiatives.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team highlighted additional examples of programs with successful youth engagement components such as:

## **MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment)**

MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment) was founded in Arizona in 2008 with the support of the Arizona Department of Health Services-Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS-DBHS), and several central Arizona behavioral health provider partners. MY LIFE consists of more than 100 youth, ages 13 to 23, who have experience with mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice and/or foster care-related issues.

MY LIFE offers a venue where young people provide support for their peers; develop critical skills in leadership, mentoring and mental health resiliency; act as advisors to local officials to help improve services and systems that serve youth; and provide a much-needed voice in the community to combat the stigma associated with behavioral health issues. In addition to regular bi-weekly meetings, MY LIFE sponsors big youth-driven events such as festivals, proms, Youth Day at the Capitol, and job and career fairs.

In addition to helping youth individually, MY LIFE also has been beneficial to programs and systems that serve youth by bringing about changes to improve care for youth in Arizona and across the nation. For example youth input has helped to inform the implementation of the Transition to Independence (TIP) program administered by Jewish Family and Children's Services to provide services to assist foster youth 16-21 with behavioral health needs. Moreover, MY LIFE Arizona youth have been instrumental in starting four additional groups in southeastern Pennsylvania and two groups in Louisiana, with more than 400 youth now involved nationally in MY LIFE. A MY LIFE Discovery Group was started for youth 7-13 years of age facilitated by the older MY LIFE youth participants.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, April 23, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Greg Dicharry, Youth Empowerment Director, and Erica Noble, Child and Youth Services Liaison, Magellan ([www.magellanofaz.com](http://www.magellanofaz.com)), May 14, 2013.

Transitional Living Programs such as Tumbleweed Young Adult Program have Youth Advisory Boards actively involved in making decisions regarding community rules and expectations and planning social events. For example, the Tumbleweed Youth Advisory Board adopted a policy of weekly community dinners based on the preferences of residents. An annual event (*Tumblefest*) is planned by the Youth Advisory Board consisting of a barbeque, talent show and awards.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Carl Tuitavuki, Program Manager, Tumbleweed Young Adult Program ([www.tumbleweed.org](http://www.tumbleweed.org)), May 15, 2013.

## **6. Describe the ways in which the community supports youth participation, both in the local initiative and in other community activities (e.g., childcare, transportation, timing and location of meetings). What are some of the barriers in the community to youth participation?**

Agencies and programs utilize a variety of strategies to address youth participation. Some examples include:

- Arizona (ADES-DCYF) funds a youth age 18 or older to participate in the FosterClub All Stars summer program. FosterClub, a national network for youth in foster care, trains youth participants in facilitation, strategic sharing and other areas that empower youth to reach out to other youth through conferences, trainings and events. Arizona youth have participated in

national conferences, most recently at the 2011 National Pathways to Adulthood and Growing Pains Youth Conference.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program June 2012*, p.169-170.

- **PASSAGE Transition Coalition** is a network of Maricopa County social services agencies and community partners established in 2006 to focus on issues facing youth aging out of foster care and to improve their outcomes. In 2011 the PASSAGE Transition Coalition worked in partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way to engage in a formal strategic planning process to address gaps in transition services and supports. Strategies identified include housing workshops, financial literacy training, apartment start-up programs, technology training and job fairs. PASSAGE General Assembly events are attended by youth, agency staff and allies. Between March 2011 and December 2012, PASSAGE Transition Coalition sponsored nine assembly events attended by 834 individuals. Approximately half (52% or 437) of the participants were youth.

Transportation is a barrier for youth participating in events due to large geographic area of the metropolitan Phoenix area and limited public transportation. Some agencies and programs have developed successful strategies to insure youth are able to participate. For example, PASSAGE Transition Coalition General Assembly events are attended by youth, agency staff and allies. Transportation assistance is provided by participating agencies and meals are incorporated into the evening programs.

**Source of Data:** Summary of Passage Transition Coalition General Assemblies 2011-2012. Passage General Assembly, Health Care Forum, February 27, 2013.

- Barriers to youth participation identified by the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team included:
  - Meeting times for Court hearings, Foster Care Review Boards, ADES-DCYF staffings and caseworkers frequently conflict with school schedules, social and recreational activities.
  - Lack of Transportation
  - Parenting teens often lack child care arrangements

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team 4.23.2013.

## **7. Describe the policies and practices in place that ensure that young people are actively involved in their own case planning and decision making?**

ADES-DCYF Children's Services Manual outlines opportunities for youth involvement in case planning and decision making: Examples include:

- Chapter 2, Section 8 - Team Decision Making provides for participation for youth over 12 years in case staffings.
- Chapter 5, Sections 34-37 contains information on Young Adult Program services and required youth participation.

- Chapter 7 Section 19 provides information on Resolving Conflict, including formal grievance procedures available to youth.
- Additional program information on resources and surveys for youth are available on the DES website (azdes.gov).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division of Children, Youth and Families Children’s Services Manual (www.azdes.gov).

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately one third of survey respondents said efforts to include the youth in the decision making process pertaining to their case planning was mostly to completely effective.

**Q.18 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are efforts to include the youth in the decision making process?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>6.55%</b>	<b>16.07%</b>	<b>29.76%</b>	<b>26.79%</b>	<b>7.74%</b>	<b>13.10%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	11	27	50	45	13	22	168

Comments reflect a variety of perspectives and experiences of the respondents. Examples include:

*“Being involved in the decisions that affect their lives is validating and empowering for youth.”*

*“Youth need a voice, even if they don't always get what they want. Very important.”*

*“I always make sure the youth feel welcome at all hearings relating to them and that they have a chance to speak to the court.”*

*“My current CASA child will be 16 in October but he rarely participates in his six month Report and Review Hearings because CPS wants him in school. It should be a policy that teen age foster children participate in their R & R hearings.”*

*“Kids just not used to dealing with adults on an adult level.”*

*“I've yet to see a situation in FCRB where a teen was asked by any workers involved what THEY would like to have happen.”*

*“MORE INPUT FROM YOUTH.”*

*“Effective when the youth are allowed to attend, legal advocate office advocate that the youth attend all hearings and CFTs.”*

*“The opportunity is present for the youth, and it is up to the youth to take advantage or not. For motivated youth, would rate higher, but other kids bring the rating down.”*

*“I find that some foster children are overwhelmed by all the goals that they must accomplish to become an adult.”*



*“The youth are given opportunities to voice their opinions. However, they are youth and often need decisions made for their best interest, not for what they would “like” to happen.”*

*“Sadly when we tell youth they do have a voice they are shut down. Youth need to be part of the negotiation and told what is possible in their situation. They lived it, confidentiality is not the priority. How can a child grow and function when he is placed and moved with no regard to his wants and needs?”*

*“Child Family Team meetings are poorly run.”*

*“They should at least feel empowered and have a voice.”*

*“I feel CPS and the Clinic are doing their part in preparing these youngsters, but it will also be up to the teen to make a contribution to their own life.”*

*“More youth involvement is needed in making decisions that affect their future.”*

*“Trust is an issue with youth who have been in the foster care system. Many don't believe anyone is listening to them.”*

*“Very few children are emotionally mature enough to participate appropriately.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents indicated similar findings including:

- Less than one in five respondents rated efforts to include youth in the decision making as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.18 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are efforts to include the youth in the decision making process?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>35.71%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	4	10	3	2	5	28

Comments from foster parents surveyed reflected their perspectives on expectations for youth participation. For example:

*“This depends on the CPS case manager. Most times, ineffective due to providing poor options, not giving all resources, not advocating for independent success, having limited resources from DCYF, not caring and just wanting to close out a case, leaving the foster teen's transition up to the foster family or foster child, etc. Lots of issues here and in my experience, the CPS case managers for teens are very hands-off and do not provide enough guidance, involvement, options, advocacy, resources, etc. for a foster teen's successful transition to independent living.”*

*“These youth have been asked to make adult decisions when emotionally they were less than ready and couldn't fully understand the long term consequences.”*

*“CPS not consistent with visits to discuss matters with youth of age that can express their desires.”*

*“Should always be included.”*

*“Again, Foster children need "parenting." Teens in a biological family always have caring/mentoring parents who are directly and/or indirectly "guiding" their children.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- More than half of respondents gave the ADES-DCYF Arizona Young Adult Program (specialized case management units) low ratings for effectiveness.

**Q.2 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are ADES-DCYF specialized case management staff for young adults (Arizona Young Adult Program)?**

Answered: 171 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	2.34%	19.30%	38.01%	22.22%	0%	18.13%	
<b>Number</b>	4	33	65	38	0	31	171

Common themes emerged from the comments of respondents concerning large caseloads and turnover of ADES-DCYF CPS case managers. For example:

*“The staff changes every three to six months and has a large case load. It is impossible for them to get to know their clients.”*

*“Information gets confounded with each case and the transitions of personnel, the timelines of youth approaching adulthood, and follow-through of services.”*

*“Much praise for the caseworkers, they are overworked, underpaid, and oftentimes under appreciated.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of foster parents were similar:

- More than of the foster parents gave the ADES-DCYF Arizona Young Adult Program (specialized case management units) low ratings for effectiveness. One in five said they were not at all effective.

**Q.5 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are ADES-DCYF specialized case management staff for young adults (Arizona Young Adult Program)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	21.43%	14.29%	21.43%	7.14%	3.57%	32.14%	
<b>Number</b>	6	4	6	2	1	9	28

Comments of respondents cited problems with implementation. For example:

*“Program does not support successful transition. Abandons kids at 18 primarily. Lately, case managers are not offering the voluntary in addition to not preparing youth for independence. Many case managers are leaving aging out teens in their foster home placement for foster parents to provide care with no reimbursement, as many foster parents will not turn a child onto the streets like DCYF has time and time again.”*

*“These youth are not emotionally as old as they are chronologically. The program wants to assume they are ready to be young adults when in fact they are still trying to figure out how to be teenagers.”*

*“No consistency in services or no services provided.”*

*“They lack "coaching" skills and are unable to direct a youth in the direction he "should" go. The system typically provides the child with a sense that he knows what's best for himself. He is the expert of his "self" and that is one of the reasons why we have so many unsuccessful incompetent minors. They need parenting as they are still very immature and need an appropriate parent figure to "guide" them not cater to them.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**Arizona Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)** provides dependent youth with the opportunity to participate in Foster Care Review Board Hearings or submit a statement in advance of the Hearings.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) -*Policy on Youth Participation*. ([www.azcourts.gov/fcrb/youthparticipation](http://www.azcourts.gov/fcrb/youthparticipation)).

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Most respondents were knowledgeable about Foster Care Review Boards and approximately half of the respondents gave high marks for effectiveness.

**Q.7 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are Foster Care Review Boards?**

Answered: 170 Skipped: 1

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	9.41%	14.71%	21.18%	37.06%	12.35%	5.29%	
<b>Number</b>	16	25	36	63	21	9	170

Comments of respondents were supportive of expanding opportunities for youth development and engagement. For example:

*“They (FCRB) are really interested in helping the kids and their observations are an additional frame of reference for the Judge.”*

*“Problem is that not all the teens want to participate and send in comments.”*

*“As FCRB member, we don't really know how effective we are to this age population. We would welcome a wider participation by the kids themselves at our FCRB's so we could speak with them about what they need and how they are being served. But we see perhaps 1 or 2 in a year. We never receive even a written statement or a phone call from the kids.”*

*“As an FCRB member, I would very much like to have input from the youth either by written statement, phone participation or appearing in person. We don't see or hear from these kids.”*

*“We need to listen even if we can't give them what they want we should consider it in our final decisions and recommendations.”*

*“More older kids need to be encouraged to attend the FCRB. It really helps to hear what they have to say.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents indicated similar findings including:

- Foster parent respondents were also highly knowledgeable regarding Foster Care Review Boards and gave them high marks for effectiveness.

**Q.11 Foster Parent Survey How effective are Foster Care Review Boards?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	3.57%	14.29%	28.57%	35.71%	10.71%	7.14%	
<b>Number</b>	1	4	8	10	3	2	28

Comments of respondents were supportive of Foster Care Review Boards. For example:

*“Wonderful oversight and accountability program that truly serves the best interest of each foster child.”*

*“They do a great job. They make appropriate recommendations. But ultimately the court listens to CPS CM first.”*

*“Serving its purpose in overseeing progress of cases.”*

*“When it comes to checks and balances, FCRB is on it.”*

*“They seem to want to help but their suggestions are sometimes not followed.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**8. Describe access of young people in foster care to legal advocacy services and supports, i.e., a court-appointed representative for youth in foster care, such as an attorney, attorney or non-attorney GAL, or CASA representative?**

Youth who are in foster care and have dependency cases with the Juvenile Court are assigned an attorney or Guardian ad Litem (GAL). Attorneys usually represent youth who are old enough to be able to say what they want. For very young children, a GAL shares with the court their opinion as to what is in the best interest of the child. In Maricopa County, GALs are always appointed and attorneys appointed in addition only when needed.

ARS § 8-221 provides the legal authority for the appointment of a guardian ad litem in dependency cases as follows:

- In all juvenile court proceedings in which the dependency petition includes an allegation that the juvenile is abused or neglected, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the juvenile's best interests. This guardian may be an attorney or a court appointed special advocate.
- Court rules to address attorney role and responsibility to see child.

**Source of Data:** ARS 8-221. Counsel right of juvenile, parent or guardian; waiver; appointment; reimbursement; guardian ad litem, (azleg.gov).

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Four of ten survey respondents rated legal representation as mostly to completely effective with two of ten indicating they lacked sufficient information to provide a rating.

**Q.12 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective is the legal representation of Youth in Dependency Proceedings?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	2.98%	13.69%	20.24%	35.12%	7.14%	20.83%	
<b>Number</b>	5	23	34	59	12	35	168

Comments of respondents were both positive and negative noting attorneys had limited time to spend with youth and others expressed satisfaction with attorneys in particular cases. For example:

*“The youth’s interaction with their legal representative is almost none. The attorneys depend on the CASAs to tell them how things are going with the kids. My experience for the last 14 years is they are hard to get ahold of and only talk to the kids right before they go into court.”*

*“We sometimes find attorneys only seeing their clients at the hearings (a quick 1 to 2 minute conversation), with no contact in the months between the hearings. Or if the client is not there, the*

attorney doesn't know the clients position. Suggestion: REQUIRE attorneys and GALs to meet with their (youth) clients minimum 24 hours prior to ALL hearings.”

“Lower the case load for contracted attorneys; provide oversight of their interactions with youth, including how frequently they visit.”

“The court appoints an attorney/GAL for the child. The courts should make sure those appointed see the child at least once a month. Some do not do this and it is unfair to the child to be kept in the dark all the time as to what may or may not happen when their hearing is due. A volunteer GAL program with the volunteer working closely with the appointed attorney may be more cost effective and give the child more insight into their rights and their permanency.”

“Pay attorneys enough to get them to go to Child and Family Team meetings (CFT)s and staffings - more use of Team Decision Making (TDM).”

“I've had lawyers who really do a fine job of representing my CASA teens. Very pleased with them.”

“For the youth whose opinion is different from the GAL, I believe it assists them in being able to get their voice heard.”

“More GALs are needed to speak up for youth - attorneys are not the right party to advocate for the best interest of the child.”

“Attorneys should be stronger advocates for the children to allow them to progress through the system more quickly rather than languishing in care.”

“Expand attorney training to include services and programs for youth 16 and older.”

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents indicated they were less familiar with the effectiveness of legal representation of youth including:

- Approximately one third of foster parents surveyed lacked information on the effectiveness of legal representation for foster youth and gave lower ratings.

**Q.16 Foster Parent Survey: How effective is the legal representation of Youth in Dependency Proceedings?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	7.14%	7.14%	39.29%	10.71%	0%	35.71%	
<b>Number</b>	2	2	11	3	0	10	28

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

## Youth Perspective on Legal Representation

A survey conducted by the Children’s Action Alliance in 2012 found that 70% of 47 youth indicated they knew who their attorney or guardian ad litem was and how to reach them. Of these youth, 70% indicated their attorney or guardian ad litem helped them get what they wanted or needed from the Judge and/or CPS.

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance, Survey of 47 youth 16 years and older in foster care and alumni attending a ADES-DCYF State Advisory Board Conference in August 2012 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In addition to a GAL or attorney, youth may also be assigned a **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**. CASAs are specially trained volunteers to advocate for children. CASAs develop a personal relationship with the children and youth they are assigned to and also have permission to review case records and attend case staffings and court hearings. CASAs write a report for the Judge that includes opinions and recommendations.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Dept. of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) Policy Manual, (www.azdes.gov) Chapter 7: Section 11, Legal Process: Understanding roles, Children's Action Alliance, *Getting From Here to There, A Guide to the Dependency Court for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, January 2007.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Most of survey respondents rated Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) as mostly to completely effective.

### Q.8 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	2.37%	5.33%	12.43%	53.25%	23.08%	3.55%	
<b>Number</b>	4	9	21	90	39	6	169

Common themes emerged from the comments of respondents regarding the support CASAs provide for youth, including personal accounts by CASAs. For example:

*“CASAs are great - we just don't have enough of them. They often come to the review board (FCRB) and provide good information.”*

*“I find that my voice counts when advocating for a foster child.”*

*“I am only as effective as the members of the child's team allow me to be. Often, it is impossible to provide for the best interest of a child because of conflicting actions of team members.”*

*“On my second case, I was the one that actually found all adoptive foster placements for three kids.”*

*“Actually I think the CASA program does an excellent job. I know I spend many hours at this in every aspect of the child's life seeking answers and follow up to unprovided services.”*

*“As a CASA volunteer I feel we do bring so much valuable information to the case and we should be included into the “professional team”. Rarely does our effort seem to be considered or recognized by CPS caseworkers.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

Foster parents surveyed were less familiar with CASAs and were more likely to rate them as less effective.

**Q.12 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	10.71%	17.86%	17.86%	17.86%	14.29%	21.43%	
<b>Number</b>	3	5	5	5	4	6	28

Comments consisted of both positive and negative experiences. For example:

*“Dedicated individuals and good training program. Some CASAs though, don't know foster care, DCYF or child welfare systems well enough though to be effective and focused on best interests. Can sometimes be a thorn and de-railing agent vs. helpful for the child and their case. Otherwise, those that have enough experience/knowledge, are typically great additions to the case. Foster children need every voice they can get to help advocate for their needs and keep them visible and move their case along to permanency.”*

*“They are effective but because they are so limited they really have little effect in general.”*

*“Our CASA is AMAZING!”*

*“CASA’s service inconsistent.”*

*“Unfortunately my experience with CASA's has been futile. They do nothing but take the kid out for a treat and pleasure and then return the child with an entitlement mentality.”*

*“Again, if their voices were heard...more kids would have what is best for them happen.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**Child’s Right to Speak with the Judge**

In 2012 the Arizona Supreme Court adopted Rule 40.1, for the Juvenile Court, outlining the responsibilities of Attorneys to advise children of their rights to participation in proceedings, including speaking to the judge.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Supreme Court Rule 40.1, Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court, Filed 9.1.2011. (<http://www.azcourts.gov>).



CAA, in collaboration with ADES-DCYF and AOC-DCSD, published a guide to the court process for children and youth in foster care. The guide was reviewed by youth in foster care to insure that the content was geared toward the youth audience.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, *Getting From Here to There: A Guide to the Dependency Court for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, January 2007.

In 2009, the Arizona Legislature passed the **Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care Act** (ARS § 8-528) and includes rights such as;

Children six years of age or older are to:

- Receive contact information for the child's caseworker, attorney or advocate and to speak with them in private, if necessary.
- Participate in service planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or summary of each service plan and service plan review.
- Attend court hearing and speak to the judge.
- Be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.
- Receive emotional, mental health or chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are receiving services.

Youth 16 years and older are to:

- Attend preparation for adult living classes and activities as appropriate to the child's case plan.
- Have a transition plan that includes career planning and assistance with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training program.
- Be informed of educational opportunities before the child leaves foster care.
- Receive assistance in obtaining an independent residency when the child is too old to remain in foster care from the child's caseworker, attorney or advocate.
- Able to request a court hearing for a court to determine if the child has the capacity to consent to medical care that is directly related to an illness, disease, deformity or other physical malady.
- Receive help with obtaining a Driver's License, Social Security Card, birth certificate or state identification card. The foster parent shall have discretion to determine if the child is responsible and mature enough to become a licensed driver.
- Receive necessary personal information within thirty days after leaving foster care, including the child's birth certificate, immunization records and information contained in the child's education portfolio and health passport.

The Bill of Rights for Foster Children and Youth Act contains aspirational goals to guide the policies and practices of ADES-DCYF and provider agencies. Section C. specifies that failure to comply does not give foster children cause to file a lawsuit.

*"This section does not establish any cause of action on behalf of any person."*

**Source of Data:** ARS § 8-529, Senate Bill 1209: Children: Foster Care Rights, 7.13.2009.

ADES-DCYF policy and procedures specifically incorporate guidance to CPS Specialists to provide and review with all youth in out-of-home information on their rights using the related forms and materials:

- PAC-533, Questions and Answers About Youth Rights in Foster Care

- FSC-1037A Notice of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care, including completion of Part B (Contact Information) of the form, and any additional program material available

In addition, information about Youth Advocacy and Rights is posted on the ADES-DCYF website in the Independent Living and Youth Adults Section ([www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov)).

**Source of Data:** ADES-DCYF Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 5: Section 34 Independent Living Services & Supports, ([www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov)).

The Arizona Supreme Court – Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children’s Services Division (AOC-DCSD) administers the Court Improvement Program with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Children’s Bureau.

The Court Improvement Program utilizes Operational Reviews to measure the successful efforts of county courts regarding compliance with applicable statutes, Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court, Supreme Court Administrative Orders, Funding Agreements, and local policies and procedures. The review process allows for the recognition of efforts being made by the court to address the specific needs of dependent children. Additionally, the review process allows for many opportunities for continuing education and training related to the dependency process.

Examples of tools for tracking efforts to prepare youth for transition developed in Pima and Yavapai counties are described below:

- In Pima County a “**Passport to Adulthood**” is used by a number of judges to track efforts to prepare youth for the transition from foster care to adulthood. Areas critical to this transition include education, employment, housing, physical and mental health life skills and relationships with supportive individuals. The goal is to integrate the Passport into an electronic court records system that could be available for use in all county courts. Pima County plans to hold a Passport to Adulthood hearing in all young adult cases to optimize the use of this tool. ADES-DCYF supports the use of this tool and will work with county courts to implement the tool statewide.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security, (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care and Independence Program and Education Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.164.

- In Yavapai County a “**Transitioning Youth Index**” was developed by a special group of CASAs whose particular interest is teens in out-of-home care. The Transitioning Youth Index for use by CPS staff and attorneys measures and records the provision of services and documentation to transitioning teens. The group meets monthly and puts on several training events open to attorneys, foster parents, FCRB members, etc.

**Source of Data:** Transitioning Youth Index Revised 9.27.2-12, received from Eileen Bond, CASA and Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team Member, 6.17.2013.

## D. PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

**Objective:** To access the resources of public and private systems and philanthropic organizations, expand and deepen community support, and cultivate community champions for young people transitioning from foster care.

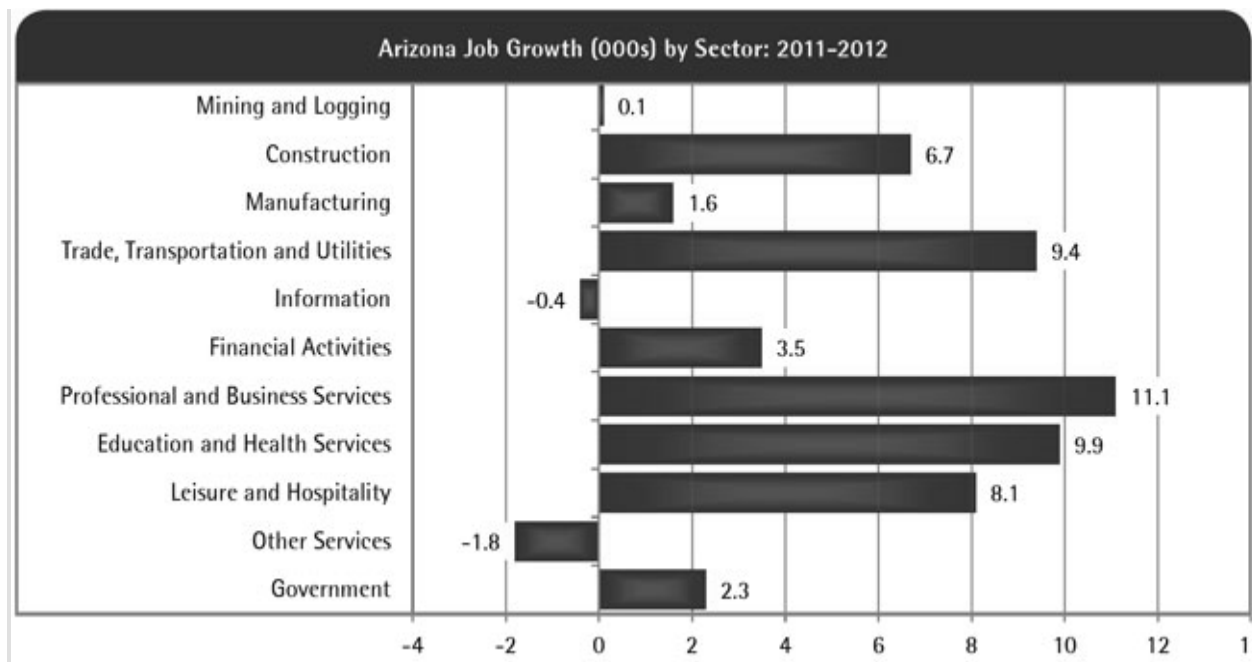
### 9. What is the general economic condition of your community, including the fiscal condition of both your state and current target area(s)?

The Arizona economy accelerated in 2012, with stronger job, population, and housing permit growth than in 2011. Job gains in 2012 were driven, as usual, by service-providing sectors. However, the goods-producing sector contributed to growth as well, with gains in construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging.

Job growth contributed to a decline in the state unemployment rate to 8.2%, down from 9.5% in 2011. However, a declining labor force was also a significant factor in the drop. Arizona population growth also accelerated in 2012, with just over 60,000 residents added from July 2011 to July 2012. Stronger population growth was driven by renewed net migration into the state.

#### Jobs

- Arizona added 50,500 jobs in 2012, which translated into an annual growth rate of 2.1%, according to the latest estimates. That was faster than growth in 2011, of 1.0%, and also exceeded the national rate of growth of 1.7%. Job growth was fairly well balanced across industries, with just two sectors posting job losses during the year: information (down 400 jobs) and other services (down 1,800 jobs).
- Adding the most jobs in 2012 were professional and business services; education and health care (primarily health care); trade, transportation, and utilities (primarily trade, especially clothing and general merchandise retailers); and leisure and hospitality (primarily food services and drinking places).
- The service-providing sectors accounted for 83.0% of net job gains in Arizona last year, but the goods-producing sectors contributed as well. Construction jobs bounced back strongly in 2012, adding nearly 7,000 jobs. Even manufacturing contributed to job growth last year, adding 1,600 jobs from 2011, with roughly equal gains in durable and nondurable goods production. Mining and logging employment was up slightly last year.



### Phoenix Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

- Job growth also accelerated in the Phoenix MSA in 2012, with job growth rising from 1.4% in 2011 to 2.5% in 2012. Thus, Phoenix job growth last year beat both the state and the nation. Job growth was slower in the Tucson MSA last year, with employment rising by just 0.6%. Even so, that was a marked improvement over results for 2011, when the metropolitan area posted just 0.1% job growth.
- The state unemployment rate hit 8.2% in 2012, according to preliminary estimates, which left the state very close to the national rate and well below the state rate in 2011 (9.5%). This news is not as good as we would hope because the state posted labor force declines during the period. The Phoenix MSA rate was 7.2% in 2012, down from 2011 and well below the state rate. The Tucson MSA unemployment rate also fell in 2012 to 7.3%. The metropolitan areas also experienced labor force declines in 2012, according to the preliminary estimates.

### Housing

- House prices in Arizona rose strongly in the third quarter of 2012, measured by the (Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) house price index. The purchase-only index for the state rose by 20.1%, with most of that gain driven by activity in the Phoenix MSA. The all-transaction index, which includes refinance activity, also showed strong appreciation in Arizona, again with most of the strength in the Phoenix MSA.
- House price appreciation looks set to continue in the fourth quarter. The Case-Shiller house price index for the Phoenix MSA was up by 21.7% in October and 22.8% in November, over year ago levels. Median house prices in both the Phoenix and Tucson MSAs also continued to increase strongly during October and November.
- Job gains in construction reflect in part a rebound in housing construction in Arizona. According to preliminary data from the Census Bureau, total housing permits reached 21,519 in 2012, a

substantial increase from 13,386 units in 2011. Most of the increase arose in the single family sector, with permits rising from 10,637 in 2011 to 16,023 in 2012. Multi-family activity also increased, roughly doubling from 2011 to hit 5,496 units. Total permit activity rose strongly in both the Phoenix MSA (up by 63.2%) and the Tucson MSA (up by 48.9%) in 2012.

- Household formation remains a key concern for housing activity going forward. According to the Census Bureau, homeowner vacancy rates were 2.5% in the fourth quarter of 2012, down from 3.2% in the last quarter of 2011. Rental vacancy rates, at 10.8% in the fourth quarter, were also below year ago levels. Overall, vacancy rates appear to be down from recent highs, but still remain well above pre-crisis levels.

### Arizona Population Growth Accelerated in 2012

- According to the Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics mid-year population estimates, Arizona’s population expanded by 60,400 (0.9%) in 2012 to nearly 6.5 million residents. That was stronger growth than the state generated in 2011, at 0.6%. Natural increase was positive in 2012, at 37,200, but a bit slower than in 2011. Net migration is estimated to have increased strongly in 2012, to 23,200, far exceeding the small decline in 2011.

Arizona Mid-Year Population Estimates and Components of Change					
<i>numbers in 000s</i>	Population 2011	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Population 2012	Percent Change 2011-12
Arizona	6,438.2	37.2	23.2	6,498.6	0.9
Phoenix MSA	4,227.6	30.6	15.7	4,273.9	1.1
Tucson MSA	986.1	3.3	1.0	990.4	0.4

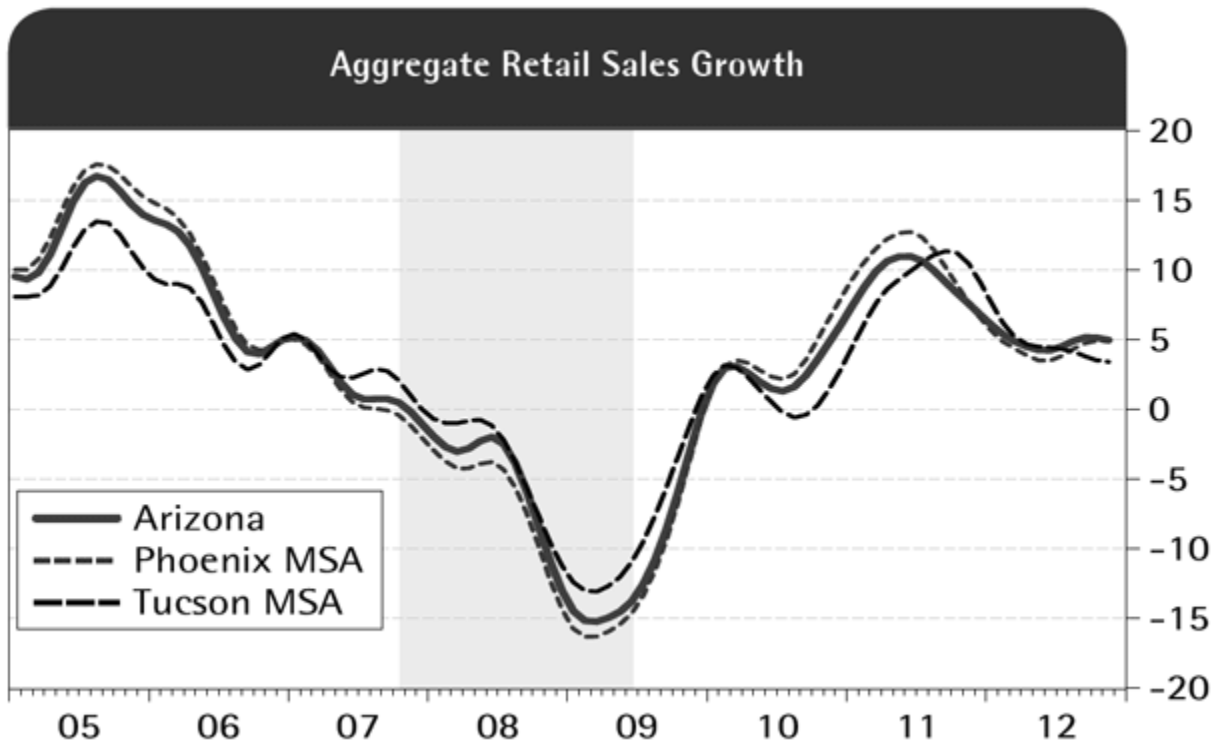
- Both the Phoenix and Tucson MSAs added residents in 2012, with population rising by 1.1% in Phoenix, which was a significant acceleration over the 2011 growth rate of 0.6%. Population growth in Tucson was 0.4% in 2012, slightly slower than the 0.5% rate posted in 2011.

### Income and Sales

- Arizona personal income rose by 4.2% in the third quarter of 2012, compared to the same quarter of 2011. The third quarter is the most recent quarter for which data is available. Arizona’s personal income growth was 1.0 percentage points above the national average. Arizona generated solid gains in all income components.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis recently released new personal income estimates for local areas for 2011 and revised data back to 2009. The revision significantly reduced estimated personal income for the Phoenix and Tucson MSAs. Indeed, total personal income for the Phoenix MSA was reduced by 1.1% in 2009, 1.7% in 2010. The downward revisions were even larger for the Tucson MSA, with personal income revised down by 1.4% in 2009, 3.2% in 2010. For both MSAs, all of the downward revision originated in dividends, interest, and rental income. Revisions to this component were large, reaching 11.3% in 2010 for the Phoenix MSA and 14.3% for the Tucson MSA.

- The latest personal income estimates for the Phoenix MSA suggest that growth hit 5.3% in 2011, up from 2.0% in 2010. Similarly, personal income growth accelerated in 2011 to 4.0%, well above growth in 2010 of 0.9%.
- Arizona retail sales have continued to increase in 2012, although growth has moderated from the rapid pace set in 2011. The trend toward slower growth last year was also evident in the Phoenix and Tucson MSAs. Overall, sales growth is returning to levels commensurate with income gains.

**Aggregate Retail Sales Growth: Year-over-Year Percent Change**



NOTE: Aggregate Retail Sales Growth: Year-over-Year Percent Change

**Arizona Outlook**

Arizona is on track to generate faster growth, assuming the U.S. economy continues to expand. For most major indicators, growth accelerates in 2013 and again in 2014, as population growth and the housing market gain momentum. Overall, Arizona is forecast to grow during the next two years and to grow faster than the nation.

Arizona Outlook 2012-2014: Growth Rates			
(percent)	2012	2013	2014
Jobs	2.1	2.5	3.2
Personal Income	3.8	4.6	6.8
Retail Sales	4.7	4.8	5.3
Population	0.9	1	1.5
Housing Permits	53.6	15.1	53.9

**Source of Data:** George W. Hammond, PhD, EBR Associate Director and Eller Research Professor, Arizona Economic Outlook Less Uncertainty Now, Stronger Growth Coming 2013, Economic and Business Research Center University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 3.1.2013.

### Future Directions

For years, Arizona was a job-producing machine, its economy consistently outperforming the national economy. Strong population growth helped to fuel that economic expansion and soften the negative impact of recessions. All that changed during the Great Recession when Arizona’s population growth stalled, revealing the risks associated with over-dependence on growth as a major economic driver. Arizona lost 300,000 jobs from 2008 to 2010, about half of them in construction. These jobs represented roughly 10 percent of Arizona’s workforce, among the worst job loss experienced by any state.

As Arizona’s economy begins to recover, many business, economic development, academic and political leaders are determined to further diversify the economy. Championing innovation, they are targeting economic sectors with sustainable, long-term potential to avoid the peaks and valleys of an economy overly dependent on construction and real estate. Modern infrastructure, a highly-skilled workforce that includes more STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) graduates, and strengthened trade relations with Mexico and other parts of the world will all be central to achieving this economic development vision. These are long-term strategies whose impact on an economy is often not seen for years. They also require a vast range of stakeholders working in relatively close alignment to achieve results.

**Source of Data:** Morrison Institute for Public Policy, *Arizona Directions 2013: Fostering Data Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*, Arizona State University, p. 24.

### 10. To what extent do changing economic conditions affect demand for the types of opportunities you are creating and the availability of resources to support your work?

**State Fiscal Year 2013 General Fund Revenues**-According to the Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), Arizona revenues were 1.7 percent ahead of budget projections for the 2012-13 fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

*“With the fiscal year ending on June 30th, FY 2013 General Fund collections totaled \$9.13 billion. This amount is \$155.9 million above the enacted budget forecast.”*

**Source of Data:** Arizona Legislature, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, ([www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)), July 13, 2013.

“The JLBC report said state expense figures for the just-ended fiscal year were not yet available, so the state’s ending balance was not available. The report said that retail sales tax revenues, excluding the temporary 1-cent sales tax, rose 6.4 percent for the fiscal year, while all sales and use tax revenues rose 3.5 percent. The 1-cent sales tax, which expired at the end of May, brought the state 5.1 percent more in the fiscal year than in 2011-12, the JLBC report said. Other key revenue categories in the report included a 10.1 percent increase in individual income taxes collected and a 2.8 increase in corporate income taxes, a 5.1 percent decline in tobacco taxes and an 8.9 percent increase in liquor taxes. State lottery revenues for the year were down 9.7 percent.”

**Source of Data:** Arizona Public Media, *AZ Revenues Above Budget for Fiscal 2012-13*, Story by AZPM Staff, (www.azpm.org), July 22, 2013.

**Arizona State Budget-**The Arizona state budget, effective July 1, 2013, includes much-needed funding to address issues in Child Protective Services. It also restores Medicaid coverage for more childless adults. An analysis by the CAA of the FY 2014 budget for Arizona State Government presents some highlights.

<b>CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE ANALYSIS: HOW CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FARE IN FY 2014 ARIZONA BUDGET</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding Increase Over Prior Year</b>
<b>CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)</b>		
Caseworkers	Adds 150 caseworkers and related staff in addition to the 50 staff added in FY 13 supplemental.	\$12.9 million
Legal Staff	Adds funds to hire 22 legal staff for CPS	\$1.5 million
Emergency/Residential Placement	Funds a portion of the \$29.7 million originally identified in the Governor’s proposal for shelters and group home placements for foster children.	\$13.0 million
Support Services	Funds a portion of the \$10 million originally identified in the Governor’s proposal for parent aides, substance abuse treatment, etc.	\$4.0 million
Foster Care Caseload	Funds projected increase in number of children in foster care.	\$4.8 million
Adoption Subsidies	Funds projected increase in number of adoption subsidy cases.	\$2.9 million
Grandparents Stipend	Establishes a \$75/month stipend for qualified grandparents who are raising their grandkids.	\$1.0 million
Intensive Family Services	Creates a new line item for services to help parents keep children safely at home.	\$5.0 million
Child Care	Funds the increase in child care needed for children in the Child Protective Services system.	\$9.0 million
Contingency Funds	For CPS and Child Care needs.	\$10.5 million
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>		
Medicaid Expansion	Expands eligibility for adults without minor children up to 133% of the federal poverty level; discontinues eligibility for those adults between 100% and 133% of the poverty level if the federal match rate falls to less than 80%. State funds will be provided through a hospital assessment.	No Cost to General Fund
Former foster youth	Extends AHCCCS eligibility for youth who were in the foster care system when they turned 18 from age 21 to age 26.	To be determined
Mental health first aid	Creates a public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.	\$250,000
<b>JUDICIAL SYSTEM</b>		
Foster Care Review Board	Adds staffing to meet increased workload.	\$200,000

**Source of Data:** Adapted from Children’s Action Alliance, *How Children and Families Fare in FY 2014 Arizona Budget*, June 13, 2013.



## 11. List key employers, both public and private, in your current target area(s).

According to a list of the largest Arizona employers published by the *Phoenix Business Journal*, the state government leads the largest private sector employer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., by roughly 20,000 jobs. The state employs 52,076 people in Arizona. Wal-Mart is second with 31,387 employees in Arizona, and Banner Health is No. 3 with 25,126. Arizona's 15 largest employers account for 258,970 Arizona-based full time jobs.

ARIZONA'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE				
Rank	Company	Type of Business	Full Time Employees based in Arizona	Total Full Time Equivalent Employees (National)
1	State of Arizona	state government	52,076	52,076
2	Wal-Mart Stores	retail stores	31,837	1,400,000
3	Banner Health	non-profit health care	25,126	31,379
4	City of Phoenix	municipal government	14,983	14,983
5	Wells Fargo	financial services	13,679	256,748
6	Maricopa County	county government	13,308	13,308
7	Bank of America	banking, lending, investing	12,500	283,000
8	Arizona State University	university	12,222	12,222
9	Raytheon	aerospace	11,500	75,800
10	JP Morgan Chase	Financial services	11,407	259,633
11	Intel	semiconductor manufacturing	11,000	100,000
12	Fry's Food Stores	retail grocer	10,767	DND*
13	Apollo Group	adult education provider	10,767	16,000
13	Honeywell Aerospace	aerospace contractor	10,000	40,000
15	US Airways	airline transportation	9,237	32,335
16	Basha's	retail grocer	8,561	8,561
Total			258,970	2,596,045

Source of Data: Arizona Business Journal Book of Lists 2013, Largest Employers, p. 168. (\*dnd Did Not Disclose)

## 12. Describe the local Workforce Investment Board and their support for youth transitioning from foster care.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220 (WIA) is a federal law designed to improve the quality of the workforce, enhance the competitiveness of the nation, and reduce welfare dependency. Enacted as a replacement to the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982, The WIA mandated the creation of a centralized, "one-stop" workforce system in each state, along with a workforce investment board to oversee each workforce system. The WIA rewrote federal statutes governing programs of job training, adult education and literacy and vocational rehabilitation with the goals of:

- Streamlining workforce-related services;
- Eliminating the duplication of services;
- Empowering both businesses and individuals to obtain the services and the skills they want and need; and
- Encouraging businesses to provide information and leadership in the development of the nation's workforce.

The WIA also offers more flexibility to local workforce development boards to operate programs, shifting both responsibility and accountability from the federal level to the state levels. In Arizona, the WIA legislation resulted in the creation of the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy (GCWP), a diverse group of people pulled from many backgrounds, including public and private sector, city and state government, large and small business, industries, youth groups and higher education. This council advises the Governor and state legislature about workforce matters, helping Arizona prepare for the future workforce needs of the state, its people and businesses.

To satisfy WIA requirements, Arizona also created more than 50 One-Stop Service Centers to serve the employment and training needs of job seekers, businesses, and communities located throughout the state. These centers offer a variety of programs to employers, job seekers, youth, mature workers, new entrants to the workforce, veterans, and persons with disabilities. One-Stop Service Centers are located within each of Arizona's Counties. One-Stop Centers provide free services including; job placement, skills assessments, job training, career counseling, resume development and more to job seekers.

The State of Arizona provides workforce support to job seekers through a number of agencies. Assistance is primarily offered by three agencies: the Arizona Department of Commerce, the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona Department of Economic Security; but there are a total 7 partners in Arizona's workforce development system that can be called upon for help. Workforce development and business development are the focuses of Arizona's workforce development system. Below is a list of the seven partners that make up Arizona's workforce development system. Each of these partners offers a number of resources for businesses (employers) and job seekers.

- Arizona Department of Commerce - who has a dual focus: Business Development and Community Development.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security - whose mission is to promote the safety, well-being, and self sufficiency of children, adults, and families.
- Arizona Department of Education - whose mission is to ensure academic excellence for all students.
- Job Corps - whose mission is to attract eligible young people, teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent, and place them in meaningful jobs or further education.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - was one of the first federal initiatives to promote self-sufficiency and help provide computer access to HUD FHA-insured and -assisted housing communities.
- Local Workforce Investment Areas - provide assistance through the One-Stop Service Centers in each county.
- Tribal Nations Investment Areas - provide members of tribal nations assistance through the tribal One-Stop Service Centers.

In addition to the walk-in centers, a web-based resource called the Arizona Workforce Connection provides immediate, online access to workforce development information and programs. ([www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com](http://www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com))

### **Youth Services under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998**

A 2013 Maricopa County Request for Proposal (RFP) provides an example as to how foster youth are designated as a priority for WIA programs. The target population consists of Youth ages 14-21 both in school and out of school that are considered the "hardest to serve." Youth in foster care are designated as a target population to be served as illustrated through contracts and programs designed to provide services for this population. For example, the categories of youth identified as most in need of services as follows:

- Youth in foster care
- Court-involved youth
- Youth with disabilities
- Children of incarcerated parents
- Native American/Indian youth
- Migrant youth

**Source of Data:** Maricopa County Request for Proposals for Youth Programs, Workforce, Investment Act of 1998, SERIAL 12144- RFP, March 2013, p.6.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Workforce Connection, Governor's Council on Workforce Policy. (www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com).

### **Education, Training and Employment for Foster Youth**

CPS Specialists and contract providers providing independent living and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services such as Arizona’s Children Association (AzCA), Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS) and Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development staff) assist current and former foster youth in the development of job readiness skills such as resume writing, interview skills and job maintenance.

In Calendar Year 2011(CY 2011), youth participated in available programs around the state, through federal School-To-Work and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. Youth were actively recruited from the Phoenix AYAP units for participation in the “Real World Job Development” program administered by Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS). Business owners partnered with JFCS to provide on-site job training and apprenticeships. Youth were also referred for ADES Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services, with a VR Counselor available on-site at the Phoenix AYAP office. Unfortunately, budgetary limitations reduced the amount of time the VR Counselor could spend on-site to provide services directly to youth in care.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.179.

### **13. List any organizations in your current target area(s) that provide job readiness, job development and job retention services.**

Arizona has many agencies and programs that provide employment services. According to Arizona 211-Get Connected Community Information and Referral, 137 programs provide job training statewide, with 48 programs located in Maricopa County. Job search services are provided by 74 programs statewide with 23 in Maricopa County.

**Source of Data:** Arizona 211-Get Connected: Community Information and Referral, (www.mycommunitypt.com), July 2013.

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care. These programs were identified by members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, interview or survey respondents and do not represent a comprehensive list of potential resources for these services. Directories such as Arizona 211-Get Connected Community Information and Referral can be utilized to identify, and map programs and resources as needed for service utilization or planning.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) offers a number of training programs for adults, seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, including a youth program providing services to young people ages 14-21. The main thrust of the Youth Program is to increase the focus on longer-term academic and occupational learning opportunities and provide long-term comprehensive service strategies. Youth services are provided to in-school youth ages 14-21 and out-of-school youth ages 16-21. Resources are offered in each region.

<b>ARIZONA YOUTH PROGRAM TRAINING SERVICES BY COUNTY</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>	<b>Contract information</b>
Coconino	Coconino County Career Center	928.679.7400
Gila	Globe	928.425.3181
Maricopa	Maricopa Workforce Connections	602.372.4204
	Arizona Call-A-Teen	602.252.6721
	City of Tempe Youth Employment	480.350.5627
	Gilbert Youth Employment Service	480.497.3300 ext. 137
	City of Scottsdale	480.312.7922
	Chandler Public Schools	480.883.5030
	Mesa Youth Placement Service	480.472-0500
	Chicanos Por La Causa	602.269.6485
	Goodwill Industries	602.254.2222
	Job Corps	602.322.2886
Navajo	Northern Arizona Academy	928.536.4222
	Northland Pioneer College	928.289.6504
Navajo Nation	Fort Defiance	928.729.4180
	Chinle	928.674.2177
	Tuba City	505.283.333
Pinal	Casa Grande	520.836-1887
	Superior	520.689.9044
Pima	Pima County Youth Services	520.243.6700
	Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC)	520.884.5550
Yavapai	Yavapai County One Stop Center	928.774.1895
	Cottonwood Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education	928.634.7131
Yuma	Arizona Western College	www.azwestern.edu
	Yuma Private Industry Council, Inc.	928.329.0990
Statewide	Arizona Department of Commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apprenticeship Program</li> <li>▪ Job Training Grant Program</li> </ul>	www.AZJobConnection.gov
Statewide	Arizona Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Student Services</li> <li>▪ Career and Technical Education</li> <li>▪ STRIVE for Students</li> </ul>	www.azed.gov

**Source of Data:** Arizona Workforce Connection, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Youth Services Training Programs ([www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com](http://www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com)).

The following organizations and programs are examples highlighted by the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team of available resources providing job readiness, development and retention services:

- **Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS) - Real World Job Development Program** provides services to at-risk youth between the ages of 14-21 who are phasing out of the foster care system into independence, dealing with emotional or mental health challenges and/or living in out-of-home placements. Services include:

- Intake and assessments
- Literacy Skills
- GED education & support
- Job training
- Paid apprenticeships
- Individual/group living skills training
- Case management
- Job referral
- Information and other referral services
- Guidance and mentorship

**Source of Data:** Jewish Family and Children’s Services ([www.jfcsaz.org](http://www.jfcsaz.org)) and Youth Focus Group conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, 5.16.2013.

- **Goodwill of Central Arizona-** Goodwill Career Center locations have a full-time staff to provide assistance with any type of job search. Career Centers are equipped with computers, printers, Internet access, telephones, and fax machines to provide services at no cost to the community. Goodwill Youth Services collaborates with other community organizations and government agencies to provide employment programs for youth in central Arizona.

**Source of Data:** Goodwill of Central Arizona ([www.goodwillaz.org](http://www.goodwillaz.org)).

- **Job Corps** is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. The Job Corps program is authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Arizona has two Job Corps programs, Phoenix Job Corps and Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Center in Tucson. Youth who are accepted to Job Corps also have options to attend programs in other states depending upon openings and training programs offered.

**Source of Data:** Job Corps ([www.jobcorps.gov](http://www.jobcorps.gov)).

- **Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development**

- **Learning Center** -a resource center that provides educational/vocational assistance, job development, and referral and enhanced educational services for clients in Tumbleweed programs and in the Phoenix Community. Programs include: Homeless Youth Intervention Project (HYIP), Family Builders, Supported Transitional Apartments, Resources, and Training (START), and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) job and educational services for individuals ages 14-21. Tumbleweed Regional High School offers education for a High School Diploma. In addition, Tumbleweed offers General Education Equivalent Diploma (GED) preparation classes. The Center provides computer and internet access for educational and job search purposes.
- **Tumble Tees** –a youth-run T-shirt screen printing business operating in Downtown Phoenix since 2008. TumbleTees is a unique screen printing shop that employs youth who are homeless or in unstable living situations, ages 16-25. They have the opportunity to learn real life business skills while also being creative. TumbleTees customers include ASU, City of Grace Church, Magellan Health Services, Green Living Magazine, and *one n ten*.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Carl Tuitavuki, Program Manager, Tumbleweed Young Adult Program (www.tumbleweed.org), May 15, 2013.

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team identified the following program resources:

- New Pathways for Youth
- Maricopa Tech
- EVIT (East Valley Institute of Technology)
- Arizona Common Ground
- Arizona Department of Economic Security-Vocational Rehabilitation
- Casey Family Programs-Kare Center
- Job Corps
- Maricopa JTPA
- Life Development Institute
- YMCA
- Sunshine Group Homes
- CASS dental clinic.
- St. Joseph the Worker
- AWEE - Arizona Women’s Education and Employment
- Fresh Start

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team 4.23.2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately four of ten respondents did not have sufficient information to provide a rating on the effectiveness of job training and employment services for youth transitioning from foster care.

**Q.20 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are job training and employment services?**

Answered: 166 Skipped: 5

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	6.02%	15.06%	20.48%	15.06%	1.81%	41.57%	
<b>Number</b>	10	25	34	25	3	69	166

Examples of comments from respondents include:

*“I have heard little of what the state does to train the youth for careers.”*

*“Youth need to be able to provide for themselves and understand how to navigate the work force.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents reflects similar findings including:

- Approximately one third of foster parents surveyed lacked sufficient information on job training and employment services to provide a rating for effectiveness.

**Q.21 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are job training and employment services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	10.71%	17.86%	17.86%	7.14%	14.29%	32.14%	
<b>Number</b>	3	5	5	2	4	9	28

Comments reflected foster parents' experience. Examples include:

*"I have no experience where this has been successful. I don't know that this is even offered to teens these days!!"*

*"We need much greater focus on skills training, not academics."*

*"My experience with Workforce for youth to gain summer employment and training service successful."*

*"If received at the right point in time for the right kid."*

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**14. List any educational resources in your current target area(s) that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care.**

Arizona has many agencies and programs that provide educational services beyond the public school system for K-12, community colleges and universities. According to Arizona 211-Get Connected Community Information and Referral, 92 programs provide GED classes statewide, with 37 programs located in Maricopa County. Literacy services are provided by 48 programs statewide with 23 in Maricopa County.

**Source of Data:** Arizona 211-Get Connected: Community Information and Referral, ([www.mycommunitypt.com](http://www.mycommunitypt.com)), July 2013.

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care. These programs were identified by members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, interview or survey respondents and do not represent a comprehensive list of potential resources for these services.

- **ADES-DCYF Education Specialists** -The Arizona Legislature passed enabling legislation in 2006 (HB 2613) (ARS § 8-521) with a \$500,000 appropriation for the ADES-DCYF to establish an educational case management unit to develop and coordinate educational case management plans for youths participating in the independent living program and to assist youths in the program to do the following:
  - Graduate from high school

- Pass the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards Test (Changed to CORE in 2013 Legislation)
- Apply for Postsecondary Financial Assistance
- Apply for Postsecondary Education

**Source of Data:** ARS§ 8-521 (HB 2613).

ADES-DCYF established two Education Specialist positions beginning in 2007 to assist CPS Specialists to develop and coordinate education plans for youth in the Independent Living Program. In CY 2011, direct assistance was provided to over 200 youth statewide. The Education Specialists provide general technical assistance to CPS Specialists in meeting educational needs of youth in a variety of ways but not limited to:

- Utilizing an education “assessment” form during in-person interviews with students as a tool to help CPS Specialists gather pertinent information and prepare an effective educational case plan.
- Contacting schools to verify and obtain credits, school records and transcripts, and assisting to satisfy other enrollment requirements.
- Advocating for students at school meetings and IEP meetings by ensuring IDEA guidelines are followed.
- Assisting CPS Specialists to procure necessary tutoring services and other services specific to the youth’s needs, including coordination of services available through the federal McKinney-Vento Act provisions.
- Identifying funding resources and assisting students to complete scholarship and grant applications (including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Education and Training Voucher (ETV).
- Assisting students in identifying post-secondary schools and program options available.
- Networking with community agencies and programs to identify services available to assist students in addressing their individual education needs.

ADES-DCYF Education Specialists are located in offices with Young Adult Program CPS Specialists in Phoenix and Tucson and report to the Permanency and Youth Services Manager in the State Administrative Office. Dedicated to working with transitioning youth, they relate to youth in a role similar to a high school counselor. Youth are referred to the Education Specialists by ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists and Independent Living Provider staff statewide. Services and assistance are individualized to meet the needs of the young people referred. Areas of focus and activities include:

- Sharing information and resources with ADES-DCYF and Independent Living Provider staff.
- Providing information programs, services and benefits to young people.
- Assisting young people with the application process for post-secondary education and training, including financial aid.
- Updating CHILDS database with educational status information for youth.
- Reviewing applications for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV).
- Assisting CPS Specialists and youth in advocacy with school districts concerning McKinney-Vento Act services (primarily transportation) for which they are eligible when they are placed in care or a new placement. (The McKinney-Vento Act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002).
- Developing collaborative partnerships with high schools, Community Colleges and college admissions offices.



- Organizing and conducting workshops for young people on post-secondary education including college tours.
- Developing informational materials for youth, CPS Specialists or other groups on the programs and services available for youth transitioning from foster care.
- Speaking to groups of high school counselors and other interested community groups regarding the needs and options of youth transitioning from foster care.

### **Partnerships**

- According to the ADES-DCYF Education Specialists, Arizona Department of Education and School District Liaisons have been instrumental in assisting CPS Specialists and young persons satisfactorily resolve a range of issues including transfer of credits, special education, McKinney-Vento Act services, bullying and discipline issues.
- According to the ADES-DCYF Education Specialists, Northern Arizona University (NAU) and Arizona State University (ASU) have targeted application assistance and support for foster youth who apply for admission as well as support and scholarships for those who attend the schools. These programs were considered by the Education Specialists to be extremely helpful resources.
- The Education Specialists have been able to help youth research and compare programs offered by private trade schools and community colleges resulting in considerable savings to the student when they can enroll in the community college program.

### **Barriers**

- Transportation was identified as a primary barrier to participation by youth in post-secondary education planning opportunities. Transportation services in the form of bus passes, taxis, or direct transportation can be arranged by the CPS Specialist or Independent Living Services Provider, as they are available.
- Disseminating information on education resources and programs to CPS Specialists and Independent Living Provider staff is a continual challenge for the Education Specialists as most communication is through individual communications although some information is sent via group email. The programs and eligibility criteria are often complex and change often.
- Education Specialists indicated they have capacity to assist more youth if they receive the referrals from the CPS Specialists and Independent Living Provider staff. Some youth are assisted by other resources such as high school counselors, foster parents, mentors or other resources.

**Source of Data:** Interviews with Veronica Mendoza and Dennis Hinz, Education Specialists, Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF) on 5.8. and 5.10. 2013.

### **Financial Assistance and Scholarship Programs for Foster Youth**

Financial assistance and scholarship programs specifically targeting youth who are aging out of foster care include:

**Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program-** ADES-DCYF receives funding for ETV from the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. ETV financial assistance is allowed for up to \$5000

per year for post-secondary education and training costs, including related living expenses to eligible youth up to 23 years old. A youth may apply for assistance through the state ETV program if the youth:

- Was in out of home care in the custody of ADES-DCYF when age 16, 17 or 18;
- Is age 18-21 and was previously in the custody of ADES-DCYF or a licensed child welfare agency, including tribal foster care programs;
- Was adopted from foster care at age 16 or older; or
- Was participating in the ETV program at age 21.

Arizona (ADES-DCYF) partnered with Foster Care To Success (FC2S), a national nonprofit organization to administer the ETV program. FC2S staff and volunteers are available to advise, coach and guide eligible young people. Services include outreach and mentoring through a state-of-the-art web portal.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Summary Document provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 1.6.2013.

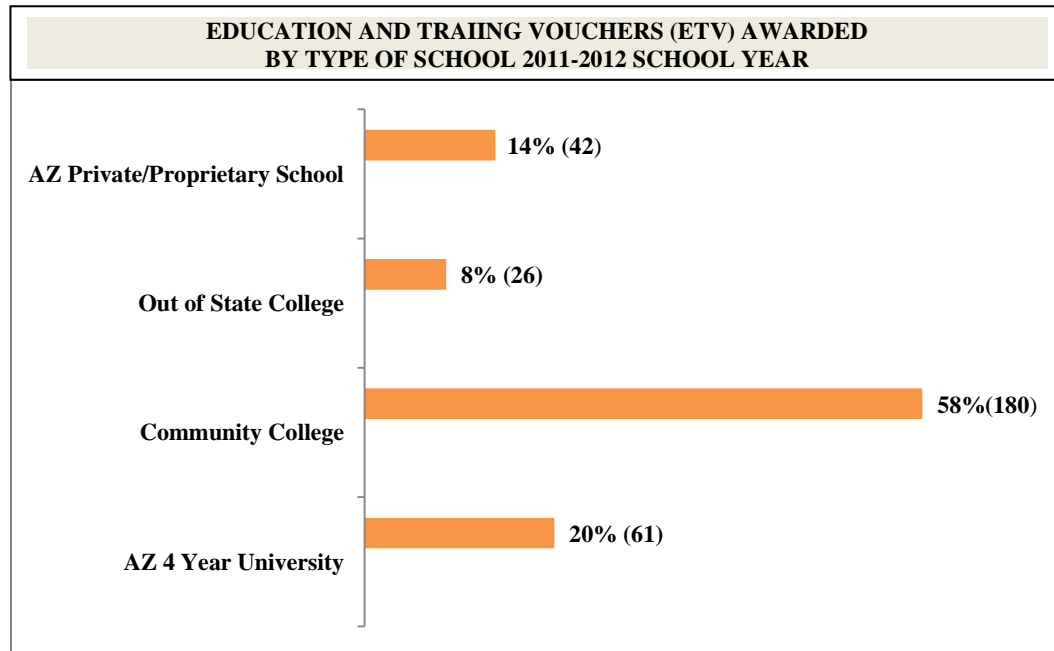
**Source of Data:** Foster Care to Success ([www.fc2success.org](http://www.fc2success.org)).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, pages 167-168.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS (ETV) AWARDED FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SFY 2011-2013		
YEAR	NUMBER OF NEW ETV'S AWARDED	TOTAL ETV'S AWARDED (INCLUDING RENEWALS)
SFY 2011 (7.1.2010-6.30.2011)	242	400
SFY 2012 (7.1.2011-6.30.2012)	105	309
SFY 2013 (7.1.2012-6.30.2013)	Not Available	369*

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 167. and Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), email communication provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, July 19 & 22, 2013.

\***Source of Data:** Foster Care To Success Presentation Handout, July 24, 2013.



**\*Source of Data:** Foster Care To Success Presentation Handout, July 24, 2013.

**Arizona Tuition Waiver Program-**The 2013 Arizona State Legislature passed legislation (SB 1208) that was signed by the Governor on June 20, 2013. The law establishes a five-year pilot that will provide tuition waivers to foster youth transitioning from care at the three state universities (Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University) and state-supported community colleges. The waiver assistance will be available after federal and state tuition assistance grants are applied. Youth who were in foster care at age 16 can qualify. The program will significantly expand the resources for post-secondary education for foster youth. Representatives from the state universities, community colleges, ADES-DCYF, education stakeholders, foundations and CAA met on July 24, 2013 to discuss implementation of the pilot program.

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance, Beth Rosenberg, Director of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, 4.8.2013 and Children’s Action Alliance Meeting on Tuition Waiver Legislation on July 24, 2013.

Scholarship opportunities designated for foster youth in Arizona frequently include support services and activities. Some examples include:

- **Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)** provides \$2,500 a semester for university students and \$1,000 a semester for community college or vocational school students. AFFCF awarded 19 university scholarships and 12 community college scholarships and 1 vocational scholarship for Academic Year 2012-2013, a total expenditure of \$117,500.  
**Source of Data:** Interview Tamara Shanker, President, Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, 6.12.2013.
- **Nina Scholars- Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust**-awarded 25 scholarships to youth formerly in foster care including 20 University Scholarships to ASU students and 5 scholarships to Maricopa Community College students for Academic Year 2012-2013.  
**Source of Data:** Interview –Belen Gonzales, Program Officer, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, 6.11.2013.

- **Casey Family Programs Scholars**-administered by Foster Care To Success for youth served by Casey Family Programs ([www.fc2success.org](http://www.fc2success.org)), awarded 8 university scholarships and 8 community college scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year.  
**Source of Data:** Casey Family Programs, email communication from Susan Hallett, Senior Director, Arizona Field Office, 8.5.2013.
- **Yavapai College Barbara Polk Scholarship** ([www.yc.edu](http://www.yc.edu)),
- **Armstrong Family Foundation**- The program for ASU Scholarships has grown from four students in 1999 to 72 and counting ([www.asufoundation.org](http://www.asufoundation.org)).
- **Blavin Scholarship Opportunity**-Paul and Amy Blavin, who are Scottsdale-based philanthropists, created the program at Northern Arizona University in 2010 to provide funding for foster youth who have “aged out” of the system. Mr. Blavin has donated more than \$3 million to scholarships for former foster youth at Northern Arizona University and the University of Michigan.  
**Source of Data:** Arizona Republic, Mary K. Reinhart, ([www.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com)) June 20, 2013.
- **Passage Ways Scholarship Foundation**-Canyon State Academy-provides scholarships to residents who want to continue their education at the postsecondary level.  
**Source of Data:** Interview with Brian Heath, Executive Director, Canyon State Academy, June 4, 2013.

There are a number of other scholarship programs available to youth throughout the state, which youth transitioning from foster care can access. These include, but are not limited to:

- Federal Pell Grant Program
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona State University (ASU) Foundation

## **Barriers**

According to a survey conducted by PASSAGE Transition Coalition of current and former youth and agency staff top-ranked barriers to education include:

- Changing schools too often
- Lack of expectations for academic success from the home
- Lack of homework support

**Source of Data:** PASSAGE Transition Coalition, Foster Youth Transition Readiness: Survey Results Report, June 2012.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- The majority of respondents did not have sufficient information about the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program to rate the effectiveness of the program.

**Q.5 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0.60%</b>	<b>12.50%</b>	<b>13.69%</b>	<b>16.07%</b>	<b>2.38%</b>	<b>54.76%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	1	21	23	27	4	92	168

Comments included recommendations to provide information and opportunities to youth earlier in the transition process and training for legal advocates. For example:

*“Further education and training needs to be discussed with the youth sooner.”*

*“My clients have told me that it takes a considerable amount of time to obtain the voucher.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents resulted in similar findings including:

- Approximately 40% of respondents did not have sufficient information about the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program to rate the effectiveness of the program.

**Q.9 Foster Parent Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>42.86%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	2	3	2	5	4	12	28

Comments reflected the foster parents’ lack of information about the ETV program. For example:

*“What is this? Since I don't know about it, I'd say it's not effective. I've been in the field since 1992 and involved with DCYF since then, yet do not know what this is.”*

*“Nobody seems to know how to get these services.”*

*“Between us, this and FASFA the needs are being met.”*

*“Too much red tape, need to shorten process so students receive funding more timely.”*

*“Not familiar.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Almost half (48%) of respondents did not have sufficient information to provide a rating on the effectiveness of college scholarships.

**Q.13 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are college scholarships for youth in foster care?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	1.19%	8.33%	13.10%	21.43%	7.74%	48.21%	
<b>Number</b>	2	14	22	36	13	81	168

Examples of positive comments from respondents include:

*“If a child knows about, applies, and receives a scholarship, of course, the clients are helped tremendously.”*

*“There should be more, these kids have much untapped potential.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- Approximately one third of foster parents surveyed did not have sufficient information to provide a rating on the effectiveness of college scholarships but gave the program high ratings.

**Q.17 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are college scholarships for youth in foster care?**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	3.85%	15.38%	11.54%	19.23%	15.38%	34.62%	
<b>Number</b>	1	4	3	5	4	9	26

Comments were supportive of the program and included suggestions for expansion of opportunities. For example:

*“Arizona Friends of Foster Children is the main funding source I am aware of and they are an incredible support to foster children. There are resources that CPS case managers could be more versed in to parlay this information to each teen foster placement, their foster family and the foster family's licensing agency. More information needs to be provided to teens and those taking care of the teens to capitalize on these resources. In addition, CPS case managers would be much more effective for independent living transition if they took the drivers’ seat in planning and executing of such things as working with the teen on scholarship applications from AZ Friends of Foster Children. Many CPS workers will not assist with these sorts of things for the success of teens transitioning successfully to independent living.”*

*“Most foster care youth can't qualify academically.”*

*“Information not widely distributed for foster parents to know about scholarship program.”*

*“Getting foster kids to desire a college education is the challenge!”*

*“Any financial support helps. It is challenging to access.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately a third of respondents rated education services for youth transitioning from foster care as mostly or completely effective and 17% did not have sufficient information to provide a rating.

**Q.19 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are education services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	4.14% 7	15.38% 26	29.59% 50	30.18% 51	3.55% 6	17.16% 29	169

Examples of comments from respondents included:

*“Depends on good communication between school and team. Too many placements and school changes hinder kids' progress.”*

*“I find that if a foster child is a risk taker and doesn't have a good self-image, then low self-esteem prevents them from accomplishing their goals.”*

*“Not enough remedial education services.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- Approximately a third of foster parents surveyed rated education services for youth transitioning from foster care as mostly or completely effective and 11% did not have sufficient information to provide a rating.

**Q.20 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are education services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	7.14% 2	21.43% 6	25% 7	25% 7	10.71% 3	10.71% 3	28

Comments noted successes and challenges faced by foster children in the educational system, including moving and changing schools. Examples include:

*“If this is about Dept. of Ed, there is a lot of protocol that gets in the way of a foster child's educational success. There needs to be more flexibility for foster children to move between schools or stay in a particular school, perhaps special protocol if not flexibility. Foster children have special educational considerations and needs and the current services do not regularly meet their needs. If the foster child has an advocate to hold the school district accountable, then there is some effectiveness there. But, many*

*times, the schools kick kids out, suspend them, don't hold or enforce IEPs, and will not assist with logistics that are needed for foster care considerations (i.e. transportation to a different school; transportation from a new foster home out of district to the school the child has been attending; etc.)”*

*“We need much greater focus on skills training, not academics.”*

*“We have an incredible educational team.”*

*“With the support of the foster/adoptive family these youth can take advantage of these opportunities.”*

*“Parent has to know school system and educate themselves on getting services for youth in the home.”*

*“My HCTC children have required a higher level of service that the district is unable to provide.”*

*“Not moving children is more effective than anything else!”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

ADES-DCYF CPS staff and contract providers have utilized a variety of community resources and strategies to ensure youth receive necessary educational services, such as tutoring, special equipment, special education, services, etc. Examples include:

- Arranged for youth to explore a wide range of post-secondary education and training opportunities through participation in university, community college and vocational program tours (including Job Corps), college success skills classes, and other community-based preparatory program and activities.
- Youth participate in College Goal Sunday with counselors on hand to help youth complete financial aid applications (FASFA).
- In April, 2012, Off Campus Jams held a Fostering Youth Transitions Career Fair at DeVry University for foster youth living in group homes in Maricopa County.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, page 167.

- **College Depot-** administered by the Phoenix Public Library consisting of free full service college planning through workshops and events, one-on-one assistance, information and resources for financial aid and scholarships.

**Source of Data:** College Depot ([www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot)).

- **Online Education Programs**

The importance of supporting youth to continue their education was stressed by the various stakeholders interviewed. The structure and opportunities of educational programs are beneficial to youth across multiple domains. Flexibility and options are necessary to meet the needs of the diverse population. Enrollment in online educational programs has increased for this population



of foster and transitioning youth as a resource for youth to obtain high school and college credits, while addressing deficits or barriers to attending class in a school setting.

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA), passed by Congress and effective on January 14, 2013 includes two provisions that allow for easier access to education records for child welfare agencies.

- USA creates a new exception under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) that makes it easier for schools to release a child's education records to child welfare agencies without the prior written consent of the parents. (This does not mean that child welfare agencies should leave out parents. In fact, good practice dictates that child welfare agencies should make efforts to keep parents informed and involved at all times.)
- USA eliminates the requirement that education agencies notify parents before education records are released pursuant to a court order to any individual, when the parent is a party to the case where that order was issued.

Previously, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) had caused delays and problems for child welfare agency representatives in getting critical education records for children in care.

**Source of Data:** Authored by the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Education Law Center, and Juvenile Law Center. ([www.fostercareandeducation.org](http://www.fostercareandeducation.org)), 2013.

The above examples are not intended to represent the full spectrum of education resources in the state that are available or could be made available to foster youth. Organizations and agencies such as ADES-DCYF, public libraries including College Depot, have done extensive work in developing and updating resource listings.

## **15. Describe any programs or services in your current target area(s) that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care who are pregnant and/or parenting.**

Arizona has several agencies that provide comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of youth in foster care who are pregnant or parenting. Many of these services are currently being utilized by foster youth or could be made available to them. Depending upon the needs of the individual youth, individual services are offered through county health departments, First Things First and community-based agencies to support teen parents including parenting classes, nutrition programs and support.

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care. These programs were identified by members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, interview or survey respondents and do not represent a comprehensive list of potential resources for these services.

Transitioning from foster care to adulthood is exceptionally challenging for pregnant and parenting teens. Arizona has several organizations providing comprehensive services with residential and transitional living components for homeless youth and youth who are exiting or were formerly in foster care. Examples include:

- **Florence Crittenton (Maricopa County)** provides specialized programs and services for pregnant, parenting girls ages 12-18, who are in need of independent living, parenting and/or childcare skills training. For example, at Girls Ranch, young women live in a home environment with private parenting suites and shared common areas for play, interaction and group classes. In this environment, girls develop their day-to-day living and parenting skills, and share in the responsibilities of planning and preparing meals, running a home, and caring for others. Additionally, while at Girls Ranch, clients continue their education by attending a local school or GED classes. They also may take additional online classes to assist with recovery of education credits.

**Source of Data:** Florence Crittenton ([www.flocrit.org](http://www.flocrit.org)).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

- **Maggie's Place** provides for the immediate physical and emotional needs of mothers 18 years and older including shelter, food, clothing, and a supportive community. In addition, Maggie's Place connects mothers to the appropriate agencies and resources including prenatal care, health insurance, low-cost housing, and education programs. Women can join the Maggie's Place community at any point in their pregnancy and stay until the child is at least six months old. Women with other dependent children in their care, in early stages of recovery from addictions or in physical danger are encouraged to seek services from other community agencies with specialized facilities and resources.

**Source of Data:** Maggie's Place, ([www.maggiesplace.org](http://www.maggiesplace.org)).

Additional examples of non-residential resources and services to support pregnant and parenting teens identified by the Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team include:

- Arizona's Children Association-New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development
- Phoenix Crisis Nursery-Early Head Start
- Healthy Families
- First Things First
- Pima Community College has child care available for parents while they attend school/parents work in the child care center.
- Tempe Union High School District-Tempe Community Council

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**16. List the housing resources that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care in your current target area(s) (e.g., low-income housing, section 8 vouchers, emergency housing or homeless shelters, transitional living housing units). What are some of the barriers to accessing these resources?**

Arizona has many agencies and programs that provide housing services. According to Arizona 211-Get Connected Community Information and Referral, 313 programs provide housing services including rent assistance, transitional shelter, furniture and low income housing statewide, with 144 programs located in Maricopa County.

**Source of Data:** Arizona 211-Get Connected: Community Information and Referral, ([www.mycommunitypt.com](http://www.mycommunitypt.com)), July 2013.

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care. These programs were identified by members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, interview or survey respondents and do not represent a comprehensive list of potential resources for these services. Directories such as Arizona 211-Get Connected Community Information and Referral can be utilized to identify, and map programs and resources as needed for service utilization or planning purposes.

Finding safe and affordable housing presents a tremendous challenge for young people with limited financial resources. Arizona has several organizations providing transitional and residential programs for homeless youth and youth who are exiting or were formerly in foster care. Examples include:

- **Tumbleweed Youth Adult Program (Maricopa County)** was established as a supervised apartment living program for homeless youth, including youth transitioning from foster care. The program has capacity for 15 youth ages 16 to 18 and 5 accompanying babies/toddlers. Youth receive independent living training, counseling, job development and skill building. Skill building is designed to help the youth learn to live independently and includes employment and parenting skills as well as a focus on increasing education level. Youth can be pregnant or parenting and can stay up to two years. Youth move on to more independent living situations upon leaving Tumbleweed to include college dorms and their own apartments.

Tumbleweed also provides outreach teams provide immediate needs on the street including nutritious food, clothing, shelter referral, transportation, health care assistance and counseling services. The Mobile street outreach program operates 7 days/nights a week serving needs throughout Maricopa County. Outreach workers work the front lines to locate and assist youth on the streets and encourage them to take that critical first step off the street and into the Drop In Center where youth will have access to additional resources, case management, hot meals (3 full meals provided and snacks available daily), showers and beds in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Carl Tuitavuki, Program Manager, Tumbleweed Young Adult Program ([www.tumbleweed.org](http://www.tumbleweed.org)), May 15, 2013.

- **Florence Crittenton (Maricopa County)** serves female youth transitioning from foster care in a Transitional Living program. Youth live in Florence Crittenton's transitional housing units where they are taught day-to-day living skills, and given job training and counseling to prepare them to successfully transition into life as an independent adult. Special programs focus on services for pregnant, parenting and non-parenting girls ages 12-21. Clients continue their education by attending a local school or GED classes. They also may take additional online classes to assist with recovery of education credits.

**Source of Data:** Florence Crittenton ([www.flocrit.org](http://www.flocrit.org)).

- **A New Leaf Transitional Living Program (Maricopa County)** serves 18-25 year-olds who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness with an emphasis on youth who have aged-out of the foster care system. The Empower Program, New Leaf Cottages and Desert Leaf apartments provide a combination of affordable (or subsidized) short-term transitional housing, basic needs, case management, and independent living training for young adults who are working and /or obtaining higher education or training for up to two years. Young Adult participants temporarily may live in one of two "agency owned" homes in Mesa or in apartments across the Valley. Independent Living Skills, support, and case management are provided at convenient locations

for the residents. A New Leaf Cottages incorporates wraparound services from behavioral health and community programs. Desert Leaf Apartments opened in December 2012, is an 18-unit, 1 and 2 bedroom complex located near A New Leaf's Pat Gilbert Center, home to both Maricopa County's WIC and immunization programs, and A New Leaf behavioral health clinic and MesaCAN's community services.

**Source of Data:** A New Leaf ([www.turnanewleaf.org](http://www.turnanewleaf.org)).

- **HomeBase Youth Services Programs of Native American Connections (NAC)**-consists of Street Outreach, Day Outreach Center and Transitional Living for homeless youth ages 18-21.
  - **Street Outreach**-Employees and volunteers, each night, travel out to the streets and other places where homeless youth are found and bring meals, blankets, hygiene products and information about NAC services. HomeBase strongly encourages youth to come to the Day Resource Center for more assistance.
  - **Day Outreach Center**-a facility where homeless youth can come Monday through Friday to wash their clothes, take a shower, have a hot meal and meet with case managers and receive referrals for medical and mental health professionals as they work toward entering the Transitional Living Program.
  - **Transitional Living**-A program designed specifically to help homeless young adults prepare for healthy independent living. Services include housing for 25 youth, employment training and assistance, financial literacy courses, educational training and assistance and referrals for legal assistance, medical and mental health services, substance abuse services, social services and assistance with social/developmental challenges... In addition, NAC provides the opportunity to access a wide variety of affordable housing when these young people are ready to be on their own.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Diana Yazzie Devine, President/CEO, Native American Connections ([www.nativeconnections.org](http://www.nativeconnections.org)), May 28, 2013.

- **Our Family Teens in Transition: Transitional Housing (Pima County)** consists of a 20 unit apartment complex leased from the City of Tucson and scattered site apartments designed to provide housing for up to two years for qualified youth ages 18-21. This housing program is designed for youth to work, complete educational or vocational goals, save money and transition into a permanent living situation. All youth in this program have access to intensive case-management services, life skills training, parenting classes (if pregnant or parenting) and participate in education and employment programs.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Laurie Mazerbo, New Beginnings Homeless Services, Division Director, Our Family ([www.ourfamilyservices.org](http://www.ourfamilyservices.org)), May 21, 2013.

- **Open Inn Transitional Living Program (Pima and Yavapai Counties)** provides comprehensive supports and transitional housing for young adults, ages 16-18, who are forced to make a rapid transition to adulthood. This community-based program provides on-site apartments, life skills training, case management, and the support necessary to accomplish goals designed to reach self-sufficiency. Program participants are expected to participate in an educational program, secure employment and attend life skills classes to ensure their successful future upon completion of the program.

**Source of Data:** Open Inn ([www.opeinn.org](http://www.opeinn.org)).

- **Housing Arizona Youth Project (HAYP)** launched in July 2009, was focused on the housing needs of homeless youth between 16 and 17 years of age who are legally emancipated and homeless youth age 18-25 years of age. HAYP was an initiative of the state’s Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness and funded by the Arizona Department of Housing and implemented by the DES Homeless Coordination Office. The goal of HAYP was to ensure at least 50% of participants entering the program would fall under at least one of the “Most Needs” groupings. The five categories of Most Needs include:
  - current issues with substance abuse;
  - mental/behavioral health issues;
  - history of legal/juvenile justice involvement;
  - identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender;
  - survivor of domestic violence or sexual abuse; and
  - history of foster care/CPS involvement (and no longer receiving state aftercare services.)

The first \$1 million designated for the Youth Project was used over two years to demonstrate the possibilities for implementing the best practices of “Housing First” and “Rapid re-housing” with homeless youth. Contracts were awarded to four providers in five counties:

- Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development (Maricopa County)
- New Leaf A&A Cottages in Maricopa County (Maricopa County)
- Open Inn (Pima County)
- La Paloma Family Services (Pima County)
- Open Inn (Coconino, Yavapai, and Cochise counties)

The HAYP Project enhanced existing homeless youth programs by increasing their statewide capacity to house youth, and therefore decreasing the number of youth living on Arizona’s streets and in shelters designed for adults. The HAYP initiative provided housing for 349 youth during the third and final year of funding (SFY 2012). Those housed were 47% male, 53% female with an average age of 20. During their time in the program 94% met or exceeded goal they set for themselves when they entered the program.

**Source of Data:** Homeless in Arizona 2012 Annual Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, p.8.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, pps.168-169,175.

- Transitioning youth may also access the Section 8 Rental Assistance (Voucher) Program although waiting lists can be long. City Housing Departments typically have some type of housing subsidy programs available. Youth serving agencies have successfully partnered with local government housing departments to administer Section 8 Vouchers for homeless youth including youth who are transitioning from foster care. Examples of these partnerships include:
  - *one n ten* – City of Phoenix
  - Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development – City of Phoenix
- County governments in Maricopa, Pima and Yuma received Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). FUP makes available housing subsidies to former foster youth at least 18 years old and not more than 21 years who do not have adequate housing.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting, April, 23.2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately one third of respondents lacked sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program.

**Q.4 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	1.78%	14.79%	23.67%	25.44%	3.55%	30.77%	
<b>Number</b>	3	25	40	43	6	52	169

Comments made by respondents noted reluctance of youth to voluntarily extend foster care after age 18 and lack of consistent implementation of the ILSP policy by ADES-DCYF staff. For example:

*“Policy is good, implementation is not always successful.”*

*“Don't offer it to enough youth.”*

*“The program is too rigid.”*

*“Implementation and follow up is an issue, with staff learning policy themselves. The change coming up is good where every independent youth accepting the program gets a full subsidy and then is weaned off over the years.”*

*“Youth need better training and information they can easily bring up on their cell phones.”*

*“I believe ILSP is effective for the children who receive it but it is very difficult for the youth to get into the program. Most youth will never benefit from the program even though they have requested to be placed in the program. I had one youth who gave up after waiting a significant period of time and chose to go home to her mother who abused alcohol.”*

*“CASAs need training in independent living services and programs and encouragement to stay on after 18 as mentors.”*

*“As a Foster Care Review Board Member, I have been given almost no information about the services and policies available to youth transitioning from foster care, such as the ILSP program.”*

*“It appears that most youth do not take advantage of staying in the system once they turn 18 in order to take advantage of more opportunities. I am not sure why this is, but it is very concerning.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- Approximately four out of ten foster parents surveyed lacked sufficient information on the Independent Living Subsidy Program to rate the effectiveness of the program.

**Q.8 Foster Parent Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	7.14%	14.29%	14.29%	17.86%	3.57%	42.86%	
<b>Number</b>	2	4	4	5	1	12	28

Comments noted some of the challenges of the Independent Living Subsidy Program. For example:

*“No real support for teens aging out to truly be independent. Successful independent living transition is usually due to dedicated, creative and tireless foster families or a particular DCYF employee that cares and works above and beyond to try to help a teen achieve successful transition.”*

*“Criteria is too contingent as well and instead of helping/teaching, is reactive and punishing.”*

*The lack of knowledge of the case worker to get the kids the services.”*

*“Youth not prepared to assume responsibilities necessary to receive and retain subsidy.”*

*“It provides basic needs and not much else.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**Barriers** to housing resources include:

- Long waiting lists.
- Deposits required for rental units and utilities.
- Lack of experience and familiarity with landlord-tenant rights.
- Negative credit history including victims of identity theft or fraud perpetrated by family members.
- Challenges presented by legal status including outstanding warrants and unpaid tickets.
- Challenges youth experience explaining DES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program as income source to landlords.
- Youth who have experienced trauma and homelessness often need more than the 18-24 months funders allow in a transitional living program to be successful on their own.
- Policy changes that impact funding for Transitional Housing Programs for youth- Historically ADES has supported separate projects for single purpose service delivery (e.g. Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Street Outreach) or to serve a single population (e.g. single men, single woman, families or youth 18-24). In 2013 ADES modified its approach to service delivery to incorporate best practices through shared service delivery and collaborations among service providers in a community with an emphasis on permanent housing. Policy changes were reflected in a Request for Proposals for HUD Emergency Solutions Grant, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Lottery and State Homeless

funds. Several agencies operating transitional living programs for youth 18-24 were unable to meet the requirements of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and could not apply for funding.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security, Request for Proposal Housing Support Services Rapid Re-Housing Program, Maricopa and Pima Counties, 2013, p.1).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Laurie Mazerbo, New Beginnings Homeless Services, Division Director, Our Family (www.ourfamilyservices.org), May 21, 2013.

According to a survey conducted by PASSAGE Transition Coalition of current and former youth and agency staff top-ranked barriers to housing include:

- Youth do not have a place to stay in an emergency
- Lack of access to immediate housing upon exiting foster care
- Abrupt and /or unexpected transitions out of foster care

**Source of Data:** PASSAGE Transition Coalition, Foster Youth Transition Readiness: Survey Results Report, June 2012.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately four of ten respondents lacked sufficient information on effectiveness of housing services to youth transitioning from foster care.

**Q 23 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are housing services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	3.55%	13.02%	23.08%	17.75%	0.59%	42.01%	
<b>Number</b>	6	22	39	30	1	71	169

Comments from respondents stressed the need for housing. For example:

*“There needs to be more affordable safe housing available.”*

*“Most of my clients will need somewhere to live since returning home or to relatives is not an option.”*

*“As a FCRB member, we no longer review the case after age 18 so we are not familiar with housing services for this population.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

Almost half of foster parents surveyed did not have sufficient information on housing services for transitioning youth to provide a rating on effectiveness.



**Q.24 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are housing services?**

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
Percent	11.11%	11.11%	18.52%	3.70%	7.41%	48.15%	
Number	3	3	5	1	2	13	27

Comments note the lack of knowledge or information on housing services for youth. For example:

*“I am familiar with Florence Crittenton and they do what they can, however, it's a very small portion of the teens aging out. Other than Flo Crit, I have no knowledge of other housing services available. Housing services are needed and if there are more available, I am not aware of them.”*

*“Can't get info on it.”*

*“Most are good.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**17. Describe the accessibility of physical and mental health resources in your current target area(s). What are some of the barriers to accessing these resources?**

**Health Care**

- **Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program for Children in Foster Care (CMDP)**-The Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) was established as a program within the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF) in 1970 by A.R.S. 8-512. The purpose of CMDP is to ensure that members assigned to CMDP have appropriate access to medically necessary health care and to exhibit that CMDP is within the standards and mandates required by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) set forth in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). For those children in foster care, not qualifying for long-term care services, who are Title XIX or KidsCare eligible, CMDP is also the assigned AHCCCS health plan. CMDP pays for health care services for Arizona’s children in foster care placed in and outside of the state of Arizona. CMDP cares for children and youth in out-of-home placement from birth to 18 years, and up to age 21 in rare instances when the member is not Title XIX eligible. When a youth in care is approaching age 18 (within 3 months) CMDP sends an email to the assigned CPS case manager requesting they initiate the referral (DCYF/FAA YATI Referral and Turn Around Document (TAD) FAA-1097) at least one month prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)**-Since 2000, Arizona has offered health coverage to eligible young adults ages 18-21 through AHCCCS, the state Medicaid program (ARS § 36-2901). Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) allows youth turning 18 while in the state foster care system to become enrolled through an expedited process designed to ensure seamless health care coverage. There is no income restriction for this category of eligibility, so youth may secure livable wage employment without fear of losing health care coverage. AHCCCS uses a cascading system to determine eligibility and an applicant is approved for the most appropriate program for their needs. For example, if a youth is pregnant or parenting, they may be enrolled in

an AHCCCS program other than YATI. Foster youth who did not reach the age of 18 while in foster care may be able to qualify for another AHCCCS plan.

ADES-DCYF and AHCCCS are working on a plan that will use electronic records to automatically enroll young people reaching age 18 in foster care in AHCCCS. Enrollment will be subject to confirmation and annual updates by enrollees. The passage of legislation by the Arizona Legislature in 2013 to expand Medicaid eligibility according to the federal Affordable Health Care Act will extend health care coverage from 21 to age 26 years of age for foster youth in care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday beginning in January 2014. Youth 18-21 enrolled in YATI continue to receive Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPDST) up to age 21. Former foster youth (from other states would not be eligible for YATI) but could apply for AHCCCS coverage as a single adult.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.169.

**Source of Data:** Meeting with Children’s Action Alliance Staff and Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager and Rod Mas, Manager CMDP, Teri Cancilliere Eligibility Unit, Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF),5.23.2013. Meeting with Children’s Action Alliance staff, Beth Rosenberg, Matt Jewett, ADES staff, Rod Mas and Terri Cancilliere and AHCCCS staff, Penny Ellis, Julie Swenson on July 11, 2013.

**Barriers** to accessing health care include:

- Lack of clear understanding by youth and providers of the initial enrollment process (transfer from ADES-DCYF CMDP program to AHCCCS Young Adult Transitional Insurance Program (YATI).
- Youth frequently miss the reapplication deadlines.
- Some youth are not approved for AHCCCS (YATI) because they either weren’t asked about a history in foster care or they failed to disclose the information.
- Few youth leaving foster care have a complete health history including health histories of their parents, surgeries, illnesses, immunizations, etc. that can be important to future medical decisions.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- The majority of survey respondents rated health care services provided to youth while in foster care as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.21 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective are health care services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don’t Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	0%	7.69%	21.30%	53.85%	8.28%	8.88%	
<b>Number</b>	0	13	36	91	14	15	169

Comments from respondents reflect their positive perception of health care services. For example:

*“CMDP and the Adoption Subsidy programs are great. Don't let the State Legislature cut them.”*

*“There are many services available and the funding for them. If the counselors see an issue and recommend care, the youth normally can get it.”*

*“The health care is there for our children as long as the team knows what’s going on.”*

*“It would appear that specialized services such as allergy shots are turned down the first time but if you push the request is usually approved the second or third time.”*

*“As a FCRB member, I am impressed with the health care services available to youth in care with the exception of problems in getting orthodontic work done for them.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

A survey of foster parents indicated similar findings including:

- The majority of foster parents surveyed rated health care services provided to youth while in foster care as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.22 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are health care services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	25%	28.57%	3.57%	
<b>Number</b>	2	4	6	7	8	1	28

Comments reflect foster parents’ overall positive experience with health care services. For example:

*“CMDP continues to effective and excellent medical/health care for the foster children. KEEP THIS! It's one of the only things Arizona is doing right for their foster children.”*

*“We have an outstanding rehabilitation and medical team.”*

*“Not allowing birth control to be openly discussed is a problem, especially for young women.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Almost two thirds of survey respondents were unaware of the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI).

**Q.6 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>8.88%</b>	<b>9.47%</b>	<b>14.20%</b>	<b>4.14%</b>	<b>62.72%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	1	15	16	24	7	106	169

Comments were generally supportive of health care for the transitioning population with suggestions for improvement. For example:

*“YATI is especially helpful since only adults with children or those who are SMI are currently eligible for AHHHCS.”*

*“Most of the time the kids need more one on one help to do what they need to do.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- The majority of foster parents surveyed were unaware of the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI).

**Q.10 Foster Parent Survey: How effective is the ADES-DCYF Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>3.57%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>57.14%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	3	1	3	2	3	16	28

Comments reflected the lack of awareness of the Young Adult Transitional Insurance Program (YATI). For example:

*“An option for aging out teens, which helps. Problem is that many teens, providers and foster parents do not know this is available.”*

*“Until they turn 21 and if they are still in school and not working then they are uninsured.”*

*“No experience.”*

*“Not familiar.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

## Mental Health Services

In general, behavioral health services are a carve-out from the AHCCCS Health Plan in Arizona and are administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services- Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS-DBHS) and administered through the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) in each geographic area. Most foster children, under the age of 18, meet the financial guidelines for (AHCCCS) Medicaid and are eligible for TXIX/TXXI children's behavioral health services, as needed, and as provided through the RBHA system of care.

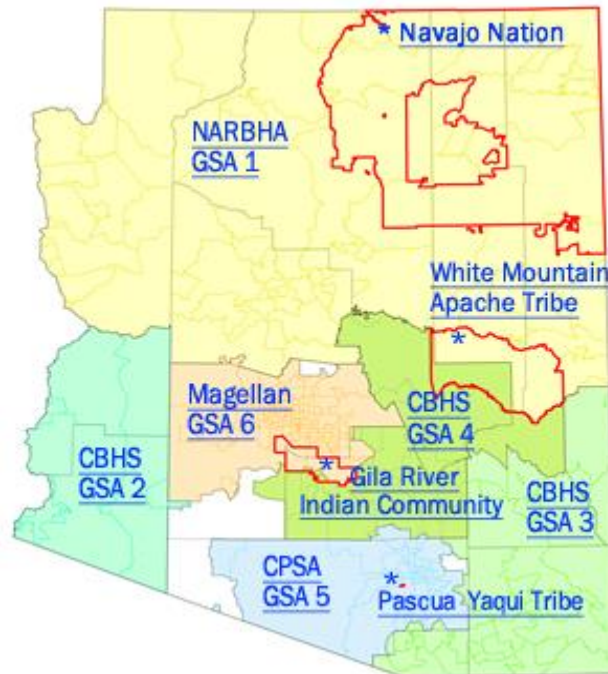
**Source of Data:** Meetings with Children's Action Alliance staff, Beth Rosenberg, Matt Jewett ADES staff, Rod Mas and Terri Cancilliere and AHCCCS staff, Penny Ellis, Julie Swenson on May 23, and July 11, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Eddie Sissons, Consultant, Research Advisory Services, July 17, 2013.

- **Arizona Department of Health Services –Division of Behavioral Health (ADHS-DBHS)-** Created in 1986, the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) serves as the single state authority to provide coordination, planning, administration, regulation and monitoring of all facets of the state public behavioral health system.

The Division contracts with community-based organizations, known as Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs), to administer behavioral health services. RBHAs operate much like a health maintenance organization. Each RBHA contracts with a network of service providers similar to health plans to deliver a range of behavioral health care services, treatment programs for adults with substance abuse disorders, adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance. Arizona is divided into six geographical service areas (GSA) served by the RBHAs:

- Magellan serves Maricopa County
  - Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), serves Pima County
  - Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA), serves Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo, and Yavapai Counties
  - Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona serves La Paz, Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Gila, and Pinal Counties
- **Tribal RBHAs-**In addition to RBHAs, the state has agreements with five of Arizona's American Indian Tribes to deliver behavioral health services to persons living on the reservation. Gila River Indian Community, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe of Arizona each have an agreement for both Medicaid and state subsidized services. Colorado River Indian Tribes has an agreement for state subsidized services. Services to other American Indian Tribes are provided and covered by the RBHA serving the geographic area. Also, tribal members will continue to have the choice of receiving their care through their Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority (TRBHA), tribally operated behavioral health program or Indian Health Services.
  - **Eligibility for Public Behavioral Health Services-**Arizona residents and American Indian tribal members living in Arizona may qualify for public behavioral health services based on income and other guidelines relating to their specific behavioral health condition.



**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health. ([www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)).

- **JK Lawsuit**-The Jason K. lawsuit has been a driving force in the development of children’s mental health services in Arizona for more than a decade. In 2000, a class action lawsuit was brought on behalf of children in Arizona who need mental health and substance abuse services and are eligible for the federal Medicaid program, as described in Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The lawsuit was filed against the Directors of three Arizona state entities including the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and the ADHS Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) ("the Defendants"). The lawsuit claimed the Defendants were violating federal Medicaid law by failing to provide timely and adequate mental health services to eligible children.

*JK v. Dillenberg*, now styled *JK v. Eden*, was brought to redress the harrowing experiences of lead Plaintiff, Jason K., which were thought to be typical of the conditions facing Arizona’s children in need. Jason had a long history of serious emotional problems including suicidal ideation. He was unable to function in school and was recommended for a therapeutic day program. The state Medicaid provider denied the recommended treatment and continued to authorize only one counseling session per week. Jason left school, ran away from home, attempted suicide, and was ultimately admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

The gravamen of Jason’s case was that Arizona had failed to provide the mental health treatment mandated by Medicaid’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate. The district court certified a plaintiff class that included all Title XIX eligible persons under the age of twenty-one, who were identified as needing behavioral health services. The children and adolescents in the class are poor, disabled, and/or in state custody due to abuse or neglect by their parents. Plaintiffs’ counsel included attorneys from the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, Lewis and Roca, a private firm, and the National Center for Youth Law.

Plaintiffs also built a convincing case that Arizona was not providing adequate care to children in need. Seven separate reports produced during litigation by an independent investigator cataloged the deficiencies. Key problems included:

- Children did not have an acceptable service plan in two-thirds of the cases reviewed.
- 56% of the children did not have an adequate assessment of their behavioral health needs.
- Delivery of services was not timely or competent in 62% of the cases.
- In half of the cases where services were terminated or reduced, there was no clinical justification in case records.
- According to the reports, the system's performance was not acceptable for any age group of children with the worst performance being for the children 14 years and older. For children with developmental disabilities, children in state custody, and children in the juvenile justice system, the system failed to meet minimum standards from 55% to 72% of the time. In short, the system performed poorest for the children with the highest needs.

New state leadership for the defending agencies probably resulted in the turning point in this case. In August 2000, the newly appointed director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, Catherine Eden, signaled a clear commitment to resolve *JK* through negotiation rather than litigation. Substantial groundwork for agreement had already been laid by the parties in the form of a statement of core principles entitled *J.K. Practices to Achieve Success for Children*. These principles constituting both an agreement over goals, as well as a general road map for reform, emphasized partnering with families and children, interagency collaboration, and individualized services. On March 20, 2001, the parties signed a Settlement Agreement to resolve this class action suit. The Defendant state agencies agreed to develop a behavioral health care system that will provide services to eligible children according to a set of Principles outlined in the Agreement (the "J.K. Principles").

Implementation of this Settlement Agreement requires initiatives to improve front-line practice, enhance the capacity of private agencies to deliver needed services, promote collaboration among public agencies, and develop a quality management and improvement system focused on sound practice. In addition, the Defendants must encourage active involvement of class members and their families, community stakeholders, providers, and other state agencies in planning and evaluation activities related to implementation of this Settlement Agreement.

The Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest (ACLPI) filed a Motion for Enforcement of the Settlement Agreement in federal court in November 2009 (*J.K. v. Humble*). The five areas that the Center is asking the court to enforce are as follows:

- The state has not created the intensive community-based services that children with serious conditions require.
- The behavioral health system does not identify substance abuse treatment needs and lacks sufficient substance abuse services.
- The training program required by the settlement agreement has not been established.
- Children are often dropped from the system on their 18 birthday despite the fact that they are eligible for services until age 21.
- The state has failed to develop a quality management system that monitors compliance.

ACLPI staff attorney Anne Ronan presented the case to Judge Roll in federal court in Tucson on November 22, 2010. At oral argument, Judge Roll explained that due to the judicial

emergency in Arizona, he did not have sufficient time to dedicate to a trial on issues in the case, despite the fact that he considered the issues raised by the case as very important and deserving attention. On November 29, 2010, Judge Roll issued an Order denying the parties' pending motions and directing the parties to again try mediation, identifying six areas of alleged non-compliance that the parties were to discuss. On January 8, 2011, Judge Roll was tragically killed in the Tucson shootings associated with the attack on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

After Judge Roll's death, the state filed Motion to Terminate the Court's Jurisdiction, which ACLPI opposed. On February 27, 2012, Judge Tashima, Senior Judge Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order denying the state's Motion to Terminate Jurisdiction in the *JK v. Humble* case. The Court held that allowing the state to terminate the Settlement Agreement and the Court's jurisdiction would permit the state to unfairly avoid performing its obligations regarding mental health services for children by taking advantage of the time limits in the agreement. On November 29, 2012 a Tucson federal court judge ordered the state to mediate five issues raised by the Center in *J.K. v. Humble* that are critical to providing adequate mental health care for Arizona children.

*"In the wake of JK, the future for children such as Jason who need quality behavioral health services looks more promising. Although concerns about funding, bureaucratic inertia, and shortages of skilled service providers continue, the state's commitment to reform appears to be real. Already new money has been allocated to improve services and training. The terms of the settlement agreement extend the court's oversight for several years to come. Plaintiffs will play an important role in assuring that needed reforms are implemented."*

*National Center for Youth Law, JK v. Eden (www.youthlaw.org), Updated April 2, 2010.*

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health, <http://ahcccsdev/Publications/Reports/JKSettlement/ProposedSettlement3-26-01.asp> (1 of 4) [4/27/2009 12:31:04 PM]J.K. Settlement: Proposed Settlement.

**Source of Data:** National Center for Youth Law, JK v. Eden (www.youthlaw.org), Updated April 2, 2010 (Counsel: Patrick Gardner, NCYL, Oakland, CA; Anne Ronan and Dena Epstein, Arizona Center for Disability Law, Phoenix, AZ; Ira Burnham and Mary Giliberti, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington D.C.; and Joseph McGarry and Bruce Samuels, Lewis and Roca LLP, Phoenix AZ).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest (www.aclpi.org/case/jk-v-humble), interview with Anne Ronan, Attorney, Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, July 24, 2013.

- **Maricopa County-**The RBHA administering services and contracts in Maricopa County is currently Magellan. Concerns about the delivery of timely and appropriate behavioral health services to children and youth in foster care covered under TXIX/TXXI (Medicaid) in foster care (ADES-DCYF Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) in Maricopa County were expressed in a letter from ADHS to Magellan in August 2012 requesting a corrective action plan. Magellan had consistently documented a lower rate of CMDP (children in foster care) enrollment/penetration into behavioral health services for Geographic Services Area (GSA 6) compared to all other GSA's statewide, ranging from 45% to 56% in the past three fiscal years. In addition to consistently lower penetration rates, Magellan returned \$13,576,316 in excess profit for the CMDP line item for FY 2008-2011 to ADHS-DBHS. ADHS/DBHS cited a declining investment, from both a financial and network development perspective, in the CMDP population.

**Source of Data:** Letter to Magellan Health Services from ADHS/DBHS, August 22, 2012.



In the spring of 2013, Arizona Department of Health Services awarded the Phoenix-area's \$1 billion behavioral health contract to the Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (a joint bid by Mercy Care Plan and Maricopa Integrated Health System.) That means Magellan Health Services no longer would be the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Maricopa County, beginning Oct. 1, 2013.

However, on Monday, May 21, 2013, the Arizona Department of Administration issued a 'Stay' order on all transition and performance related activity for the GSA-6 (Maricopa County) contract as Magellan protested the bid award and the protest is going through the administrative review process. In compliance with the order, ADHS will not be posting any information related with this contract until the Stay is vacated or another order is issued. At present, the earliest a RBHA transition could occur is January 2014.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Business Journal *Arizona Department of Health Services Awards \$1 billion mental health contract*, March 25, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Health Services ([www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)).

- **Transition from Children's to Adult Mental Health Services** -When foster youth reach age 18, they may receive adult mental health services administered through the Adult Mental Health System. Youth enrolled in the Youth Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) have (AHCCCS-Medicaid eligibility) until age 21. Effective January 1, 2014, youth enrolled in the Arizona Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) will remain eligible up to their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. Former foster youth who have already reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and will be eligible for AHCCCS until age 26 will be able to re-enroll for coverage effective January 1, 2014.

Adult mental health services are funded and administered separately from children's mental health services. Title XIX funds are provided for services to persons who qualify for AHCCCS benefits (Medicaid). Title 19 SMI is used in Arizona's behavioral health system to describe a person who is enrolled in AHCCCS and has been determined to have a Serious Mental Illness. Non Title 19 SMI refers to a person who has been determined to have a Serious Mental Illness but does not qualify for AHCCCS (i.e. the person may be enrolled in the system receiving services through non-Medicaid funds). Persons who are Non-Title XIX SMI will have access to many of those same services but not all. For example, there is no funding set aside for inpatient or residential services.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Non-Title 19 SMI Services, Frequently Asked questions (FAQs) for Peers and Family Members.

(<http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/documents/title19/nt19MembersFAQs.pdf>)

When youth reach age 18, they are transferred or enrolled in adult mental health services and programs administered by the RHBAs and their providers. Policy and practice provide for transition assistance to insure continuity of services. In many instances, the young person can remain with the same provider and merely transfer to the adult services program. In some areas the transition can be more complex if a change in agency is required or the youth does not receive transition assistance from the mental health agency when they turn 18. The majority of intensive resources are prioritized for patients with a Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) diagnosis. For young adults transitioning from foster care and the children's mental health services system and who are not SMI, the available services and resources in the adult mental health system is more limited due to availability of funding.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Jane Kallal, Executive Director, Family Involvement Center, 5.14.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Maryjo Whitfield, Vice President, Behavioral Health, Jewish Family and Child Services, 5.20.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Greg Dicharry, Youth Empowerment Director, and Erica Noble, Child and Youth Services Liaison, Magellan 5.14.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Eddie Sissons, Consultant, Research Advisory Services, July 17, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Anne Ronan, Attorney, Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, July 24, 2013.

- **Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS) –Transition to Independence Program (TIP)** was developed in partnership with ADES-DCYF Arizona Young Adult Program in Maricopa County to address the needs of older youth transitioning from foster care with emotional and behavioral difficulties. JFCS, a local provider of children’s and adult behavioral health services, implemented a specialized program integrating staff and funding (including funds from Magellan (RHBA) and a ADES-DCYF contract) to serve transitioning youth 16-21. When youth reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, JFCS and ADES-DCYF counsel them on transition services and encourage them to continue participating in services beyond 18 as needed. JFCS is able to provide continuity in behavioral health services from child to adult services and the TIP program is funded utilizing funds from the RHBA contract for children and adult services. The program is staffed by four teams of transition facilitators each with caseloads of 15 youth who work collaboratively with ADES-DCYF Young Adult Program case managers. JFCS-TIP staff follow the TIP model and team leaders have received training through the National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health (NNYT). TIP model core practices include:
  - Strength Discovery and Needs Assessment
  - Futures Planning
  - Rationales
  - In Vivo Teaching (Modeling)
  - Social-Problem Solving (SODAS)
  - Prevention Planning on High Risk Behaviors
  - Mediation with Young People and Other Key Players (SCORA)

The TIP model is considered to be an evidence-supported practice based on six published studies that demonstrate improvement in real-life outcomes for youth and young adults with emotional/behavioral difficulties (EBD). Young adults experience dramatic changes across all areas of development during their transition to adulthood. Young people’s decisions, choices, and associated experiences set a foundation for their transition to future adult roles in the domains of employment, education, living situation, and community-life functioning. This period of transition is especially challenging for the more than three million youth and young adults with emotional and/or behavioral difficulties (EBD) (Clark & Davis, 2000; Clark & Unruh, 2009a; Vander Stoep, Beresford, Weiss, McKnight, Cauce, & Cohen, 2000). Fragmented services, varying eligibility criteria, different funding mechanisms, and distinct philosophies across the child and adult mental health systems offer challenges to obtaining appropriate services for young people with EBD (Davis, Green, & Hoffman, 2009; Pottick, Bilder, Vander Stoep, Warner, Alvarez, 2008). The fragmentation and silo nature of services systems complicate access to other needed services related to employment, career training, housing, and postsecondary education (Clark & Unruh, 2009).

**Source of Data:** Interview with Maryjo Whitfield, Vice President, Behavioral Health, Jewish Family and Child Services, 5.20.2013.

**Source of Data:** National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health (NNYT), Hewitt B. “Rusty”Clark, Ph.D., BCBA University of South Florida, (<http://tipstars.org>).

**Barriers** to accessing mental health services for youth transitioning from foster care can be challenging especially if a smooth transition is not made prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Examples of barriers include:

- Youth engaged in therapy and behavioral health services while less than 18 years of age often have relationships with therapists, case managers, psychiatrists, therapeutic foster parents and agencies. When they reach 18 years of age, a change in therapists and agencies is usually required and youth are resistant to making the change.
- Youth who want to leave ADES-DCYF custody and foster care at age 18 to live on their own frequently disengage from behavioral health services which can include prescription medication. Should young people change their mind a few months later they must negotiate the adult behavioral health system to re-enroll for services which can be time consuming and complex for some of these fragile young people.
- Adult behavioral health services are not necessarily geared specifically for young people 18-26.
- Without coaching and support, youth who leave foster care to live on their own may struggle with the stresses of daily life, especially if they have limitations attributed to a mental illness. Some of the experts interviewed cited examples of youth unable to cope and ending up in jail.
- The individual case plan requirements for the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program can be overwhelming for young people with mental illness and social and cognitive limitations. In the majority of situations they agree to the case plan and sign the contract because they want to receive the money and hope they can meet the expectations.
- Youth who are placed in a group homes or therapeutic foster homes through the Behavioral Health system according to medical necessity. Once the youth has progressed in treatment (or reaches age 18) arrangements are made to move them to another, less intensive placement which is disruptive when bonds have been formed.
- Negative stigma attached to mental illness and mental health services.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Gary Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, Quality Care Network, 5.13.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Jane Kallal, Executive Director, Family Involvement Center, 5.14.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Maryjo Whitfield, Vice President, Behavioral Health, Jewish Family and Child Services, 5.20.2013.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Greg Dicharry, Youth Empowerment Director, and Erica Noble, Child and Youth Services Liaison, Magellan 5.14.2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately three of ten survey respondents rated mental health services for youth transitioning from foster care as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.22 Legal Advocacy Services: How effective are mental health services?**

Answered: 167 Skipped: 4

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	3.59%	26.35%	31.14%	28.14%	2.40%	8.38%	
<b>Number</b>	6	44	52	47	4	14	167

Common themes emerged from the comments of respondents stressing the need for mental health services and difficulties associated with accessing services. Examples include:

*“Very, very, slow to begin and turnover in staff is high.”*

*“Often very delayed in coming, often battles if the youth truly needs these services.”*

*“As an RN I feel many children are overmedicated to manage their behavior and then suffer from medication side effects.”*

*“Mental health services are always a challenge.”*

*“As a FCRB member, it seems that behavioral health services are available to this population of kids in care but they are often reluctant to engage due to issues of trust. Any child in foster care, due to the fact that they are in foster care, will benefit from mental health services if only to adjust and adapt to the circumstance of being in foster care.”*

*“Inadequate funding for counseling and other wrap-around services for juveniles with mental health challenges.”*

*“Lack of sufficient CPS staff and resources for Arizona’s child welfare system. Too much redundancy in information to maintain all the stand alone systems for IEP (Education), Mental Health Regional Behavioral Health, CHILDS (CPS), Health Care Systems for the different providers, Foster Care Review Board systems, etc.”*

*“CPS must submit many forms for referral services which is a bottleneck and takes months to happen if it happens at all.”*

*“Funding cuts, lack of understanding of the needs of youth. Youth may be resistant to interventions. Need for more effective collaboration among agencies that includes the medical care system, mental health system, courts and education system.”*

*“Funding wars between CPS, Magellan and Probation.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- Approximately one third of foster parents surveyed rated mental health services as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.23 Foster Parent Survey: How effective are mental health services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
Percent	25%	21.43%	17.86%	25%	7.14%	3.57%	
Number	7	6	5	7	2	1	28

Comments from foster parents reflected their experiences with the children’s mental health services along with suggestions for improvement. For example:

*“Foster children have both acute and ongoing needs. RBHAs are awful. They do not provide the services they are contracted and paid to do. Foster children are traumatized and the current contracting, according to RBHAs, does not provide for ongoing care to treat abuse/neglect/violence trauma. Acute issues apparently are covered, however, there is always a waiting list for intake, assignment of service provider, as well as actual services. This is one of the least effective areas in foster care. Many teens are not adequately supported with behavioral health services and as a result, end up with major issues that lend toward living on the streets, teen pregnancy, drugs, etc. DES, in my opinion, should take back behavioral health services and not contract this out through RBHAs. There is so much red tape, that even a homicidal or suicidal teen does not get immediate attention! I have specific case experience that has put a lot of people in danger, especially the teen involved. Children with dual diagnosis (DDD and behavioral health) are POORLY serviced as well. DCYF has custody of DDD children, yet has not developed or implemented services or specialization needed for their care within CPS case management or with RBHA contracts. Very ineffective for DDD children in particular, both teens and younger.”*

*“Hard to get really good attachment therapy with Magellan.”*

*“These youth are masters at telling the counselor what they expect to hear. These counselors have no idea who these youth really are. They don't include the ones who live with and deal with the youth's behaviors on a daily basis, (ie.us).”*

*“Takes too much time to get initial services started.”*

*“They just give drugs.”*

*“All of my HCTC foster children have been in therapy. Most if the time it has been ineffective. However, X. @ ChildHelp and X at CFCA are great!!”*

*“A LOT of kids do not receive the mental health care services they need. Then when they blow a placement, the big wigs wonder WHY.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

**18. What is the recent history and status of any community collaboration efforts that are relevant to issues faced by youth transitioning out of foster care? What outcomes have they achieved?**

- **Maricopa County Community Advisory Group** -ADES-DCYF staff and foster youth participate in a number of collaborative efforts in Maricopa County including a Community Advisory Group comprised of community and faith groups, stakeholders and youth. The purpose is to work collaboratively on the more pressing issues on youth transitioning out of care, including education, housing and gaps in services. In CY 2012 activities included:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Convening and planned 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Convening for 2012. The theme for 2012 was “Voting” – how it works and why it is important.
  - Helped to plan and participate in a variety of activities including Winter Formal and Graduation Dance for local youth. The convening, winter formal and graduation dance are all 100% community funded.
  - Arizona Interfaith Coalition for Foster Children and Families maintains their Suitcase Initiative for youth in Maricopa County who are in transition from foster care to adulthood. Suitcases filled with tangible items as well as names and contact information for caring adults, are presenting to youth during a formal event. The involved faith community introduces themselves to the youth and welcomes them into their community. The Coalition remains committed to providing life-long family-like resources to each youth receiving a suitcase.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section IX, Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, p.169-170.

- Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents volunteers refurbished more than 700 bicycles and gave them away to children in foster care during the holiday season in 2012.
- Arizona Helping Hands has partnered with the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents to provide much-needed furniture for transitioning youth and foster parents, as needed.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents ([www.azafap.org](http://www.azafap.org)) and Interview with Kris Jacober, President, June 18, 2013.

- **The Arizona CAPSTONE PROJECT: An Interconnected Journey: The Impact of Multiple Systems Partnering for Progress**-Arizona was selected as a participant in the July 2012 Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders through the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. A major focus of the project is on the development of a Crossover Youth Practice model. The Implementation Team for the Crossover Youth Practice Model for Maricopa County Juvenile Court is working with Consultants from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform through a range of activities in 2013 including on-site meetings, and technical assistance (TA) calls. The implementation process is driven by information gathered through the first three steps of Arizona’s strategy ensuring that the Crossover Youth Practice Model implemented in Arizona addresses the early identification of children who are at risk to enter both systems. For more information see Section H.3 Crossover Youth-Dually Adjudicated Dependent and Delinquent.

**Source of Data:** Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Presentation-Overview of the Crossover Youth Practice Model, Maricopa County Guiding Coalition Meeting, 5.22.2013.

- **Court Improvement Initiatives**-In 2013, Maricopa County Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Craig Blakey is working to implement two reforms with implications for the population of transitioning youth:

- As part of the Crossover Youth Practice Model implementation, established a special Court Calendar for cases of dually adjudicated dependent and delinquent youth.
- Established provision to allow Judges to continue to serve on the *Cradle to Crayons* Calendars for five years, extending their customary rotation period of two years. This provision is also being explored for the Crossover calendar Judges.

**Source of Data:** Interview with Rob Shelley, Program Manager, Court Improvement Program, Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children’s Services Division, May 7, 2013.

## **19. List the formal and informal community leaders in your current target area(s) (both youth and adult).**

Children’s Action Alliance honors outstanding leaders for children and families throughout the year with three distinguished awards:

CAA honors a *Champion for Children* – an individual who extends beyond the boundary of his or her job, displays the courage to speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and who understands that it takes the combined efforts of the public and private sectors to open the doors of opportunity to all of Arizona’s children.

### **Past *Champion for Children* Honorees**

2013 – Dr. Eve Shapiro  
 2013 – Kris and Joe Jacober  
 2012 – Rev. Jan Flaaten, Arizona Ecumenical Council  
 2011 – Kathy Jorgensen, Volunteer with Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
 2010 – Veronica Bossack, AZ Department of Economic Security  
 2010 – The Honorable Hector E. Campoy, Pima County Juvenile Court Judge  
 2009 – Anna Alonzo, Mountain Park Health Center  
 2008 – David Miller of the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers  
 2008 – The Honorable Freddy Hershberger, Former Arizona Legislator  
 2007 – Karen Novachek of Lutheran Advocacy Ministries and PAFCO  
 2006 – Ginger Ward of Southwest Human Development  
 2005 – Martha Rothman of Child and Family Resources, Inc.  
 2004 – Tim Schmaltz of the Center for Spirituality and Ministry in the Marketplace and PAFCO  
 2003 – Msgr. Edward Ryle of the Arizona Catholic Conference  
 2002 – Ginny Hildebrand of the Association of Arizona Food Banks  
 2001 – Susan Wilkins of the Association for Supportive Child Care  
 2000 – Chris Scarpati of the Child Crisis Center (East Valley)

The *Horace Steele Child Advocacy Award* honors an Arizona citizen who has shown courage, commitment and resolve in improving the lives and life chances of Arizona’s children and families. This award is given annually at the Through the Eyes of a Child Celebration of Youth event.

### **Past *Steele Award* Honorees**

2012 – Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Banner Health, and the University of Arizona Medical Center  
 2011 – Armando Flores  
 2010 – The Honorable Diane McCarthy  
 2009 – Linda Hunt

2008 – Don Budinger  
2007 – R. Thomas Browning  
2006 – The Honorable Dan Schweiker  
2005 – Steve Mittenthal, PhD  
2004 – Roger A. Hughes  
2003 – William J. Post  
2002 – Eugene and Barbara Polk  
2001 – Louise Thomas  
2000 – Betty Fairfax  
1999 – The Honorable Grant Woods  
1998 – The Honorable John Foreman  
1997 – Mary Rimsza, MD  
1996 – Louis A. Weill, III  
1995 – Mike Bielecki  
1994 – Melody S. Robidoux  
1993 – Kipp Charlton, MD  
1992 – Eddie Basha  
1991 – Jacque Steiner  
1990 – Dan Cracchiolo

The *Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award for Children*, in memory of the late Senator Jacque Steiner, is given to a public official who, through tenacious and courageous leadership, improves the lives and life chances of Arizona’s children. This award is given annually at the Through the Eyes of a Child Celebration of Youth event.

### **Past *Steiner* Award Honorees**

2012 – Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Banner Health, and the University of Arizona Medical Center  
2011 – The Honorable Debbie McCune-Davis, Arizona Legislator  
2010 – The Honorable Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor of Avondale  
2009 – The Honorable Robert Brutinel, Presiding Yavapai County Juvenile Court Judge  
2008 – The Honorable Greg Stanton, Phoenix City Councilman  
2007 – The Honorable Terry Goddard, Attorney General  
2006 – The Honorable Jane Hull, former Arizona Governor and  
2006 – The Honorable George Cunningham, former Arizona legislator  
2005 – The Honorable Carolyn Allen, Arizona legislator  
2004 – The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Arizona Governor  
2003 – The Honorable Robert Cannell, Arizona Senator  
2002 – The Honorable Pete Hershberger, Arizona Senator

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance, [www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org).

Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team members identified the following individuals and groups as community leaders:

- Valley Leadership
- Arizona Foster Parent Association
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Jim Armstrong- Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship
- Senator David Bradley
- Senator Katie Hobbs
- Senator Leah Landrum Taylor
- Vice Mayor Osborn (Goodyear)
- Mayor Greg Stanton and Nicole Stanton
- Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers (Avondale)



- Michael Brewer – camp for foster youth
- Debbie Gaby, Sleep America
- Paul Blavin, Blavin Scholarships
- Joe and Kris Jacober (foster parents)
- Nadine Basha
- Representative Kate Brophy McGree
- Gene D’Adamo, Arizona Republic
- Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team Members

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**20. List the key businesses and philanthropic organizations in your current target area(s).**

<b>ARIZONA FOUNDATIONS TOP 25</b>				
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>Focus of Foundation</b>
1	Community Finance Corporation	\$994,767,739	\$175,000	Lessening the burdens of government and to erect public buildings
2	ASU Foundation for a New American University	\$695,114,593	\$42,723,510	Mobilize ASU community as engine for positive change through philanthropic investment
3	Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust	\$548,453,407	\$10,407,157	To enhance the quality of life in Maricopa County through support of health care, children, older adults, arts and culture
4	Helios Education Foundation	\$534,337,381	\$14,840,189	Partnerships with AZ and FL educational institutions
5	Arizona Community Foundation	\$509,762,970	\$32,476,527	Arts and culture, public education, youth development, environment, community building and health and human services
6	Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	\$373,863,867	\$406,156	Research, facilitating the discussion of issues regarding the use, regulation and taxation of land
7	Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust	\$354,267,110	\$11,060,705	Helping people in need, protecting animals and nature, enriching community life in AZ and IN
8	Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation	\$233,393,319	\$5,424,694	Arts/culture, historical preservation and research programs, art museums, civic affairs, museums, education
9	Glen Foundation for Medical Research	\$206,804,206	\$7,006,969	Medical research
10	Dorothy D. and Joseph A Moller Foundation	\$204,002,077	\$9,600,000	Animal welfare, education/higher education, legal services, public interest law, media/communications, public affairs
11	Flinn Foundation	\$191,825,980	\$2,041,646	Arts, biological schedules, higher education, medical research, Arizona's biosciences infrastructure
12	Research Corp for Scientific Advancement	\$139,087,454	\$,386,088	Astronomy, chemistry, physics, science, program development and research, advancement of research and testing
13	Hickey Family Foundation	\$136,580,031	\$5,091,233	DND
14	BHHS Legacy Foundation	\$130,644,980	\$3,085,593	Education, health profession scholarships, health and dental services, social services, programs for children and youth
15	Amar Infinity Foundation	\$105,339,948	\$2,717,105	Promoting education, human welfare, education for the protection of the environment and wildlife habitats
16	Steele Foundation	\$70,295,133	\$2,873,461	Education, arts and culture, human services, community development, shelter, housing
17	Aurora Foundation	\$66,000,978	\$7,815,103	Arts and culture, music education, medical research, disease-related education and research programs
18	Dorrance Family Foundation	\$62,669,446	\$6,862,227	Arts, elementary/secondary education, higher education, museums (science and technology)
19	Rodel Foundation	\$57,746,915	\$1,865,500	Improving public education, making college affordable for low income students, improving public policy research
20	Jewish Community Federation of Southern Arizona	\$57,623,058	\$3,292,210	To encourage charitable giving, particularly endowment giving, to ensure the vitality of those organizations that promote Jewish identity.
21	Community Foundation of Southern Arizona	\$53,384,949	\$2,397,547	AIDS, arts, children/youth, community development, education, environment, health care, human services, recreation
22	Catholic Community Foundation	\$48,581,153	\$1,557,758	To foster philanthropy in the Diocese of Phoenix, focusing on communications, education and teaching the faith
23	Del E. Webb Foundation	\$45,337,111	\$1,708,000	To promote charitable, educational and medical services, and medical research activities of a public nature
24	Thomas R. Brown Family Practice Foundation	\$44,794,889	\$2,115,000	DND
25	PetSmart Charities	\$42,979,560	\$19,431,714	Supporting animal welfare agencies across the country

**Source of Data:** Arizona Business Journal Book of Lists, Foundations, 2013, (Ranked According to Assets for most recent fiscal year, p.139).

**CORPORATE GIVING ARIZONA 2012**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Cash Contributions Arizona 2011</b>	<b>In-kind Contributions Arizona</b>	<b>Focus of Giving</b>
Apollo Group Inc.	\$4.3 M	\$2 M	Alliance for America's Future, Points of Light Foundation, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Banner Health Foundation, Boys and Girls Club.
Cox	NA	\$16 M	Youth, technology and education
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.	\$24.M	NA	Arizona's STEM Network, Arizona Science Center, Teach for America, Economic Development-ASU Lodestar
Goodman's Interior Structures	\$100,000	\$61,000	Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona, Ben's Bells, America Red Cross, Aid to Adoption of Special Kids, The Phoenix Conservatory of Music
Humana Inc.	\$145,000	NA	DND
JP Morgan Chase & Co.	\$3.1 M	\$3.9 M	Education, community development, arts and culture, examples Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement, ASU, St Mary's Food Bank
Kitchell	\$264,162	\$7750	Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation, Banner Health Foundation, Teach for America, UMC Foundation, Desert Mission Food Bank
McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.	\$242,280	NA	Foundations, Education, healthcare, cultural, McCarthy Heart Hats Grant recipients, Family Promise, Angels on Patrol
Medtronic Tempe Campus	\$717,000	\$217,300	Valley of the Sun United Way, Arizona's Children Association, Children's Museum of Arizona, American Heart Association
Phoenix Suns Charities	\$1.1 M	NA	Starlight Children's Foundation for NICU, Family Room at St. Joseph's Hospital
Safeway, Inc. Arizona	\$3 M	\$3.8 M	MDA Arizona, U of A Cancer Center, Breast Cancer Center research, Yavapai Regional Medical Center Breast Care Center and MIHS Breast Care
Sonora Quest Laboratories/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona	\$434,300	\$250,000	Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association/Go Red for Women, Arizona Health-e Connection
Sundt Construction Inc.	\$167,750	\$91,100	Programs for disadvantaged children and adults, examples include medical care for disadvantaged children, women's shelters and food banks
The Northern Trust Co.	\$354,997	DND	Primary focus arts and cultural organizations, social service agencies, health care and education
U.S. Airways Group	\$2 M	NA	Valley of the Sun United Way, Arizona Science Center, Boys & Girls club of Metro Phoenix, American Red Cross, Homeward Bound, St. Mary's Food Bank
US Bank NA	\$142,000	NA	Education, economic, cultural needs, Junior Achievement of AZ, Teach for America, Phoenix Art Museum
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	\$15 M	NA	Wal-Mart Foundation focus: hunger relief and nutrition, environmental sustainability, education, women's economic empowerment and workforce development
Wells Fargo	\$6.2 M	NA	Arts and culture, civic, community development, education and human services

Note: Alphabetical Listing of Corporations, Contributions for 2011.NA-Not Available or Not Applicable.  
**Source of Data:** Arizona Business Journal Book of Lists, Corporate Giving, 2013, p.160).

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team members identified the following businesses and philanthropic organizations:

- Arizona Public Service (APS)

- Salt River Project (SRP)
- Phoenix Suns Charities
- Arizona Cardinals
- United Parcel Service and UPS Stores
- YMCA
- Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
- Thoroughbred Nissan – Tucson
- Wendy’s

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**21. List the other Casey entities operating in your current target area(s) (e.g., Child Welfare Strategy Group, Casey Strategic Consulting, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, etc.). How are you engaged with those entities?**

The Arizona Field Office for **Casey Family Programs** has three direct services teams, two in Maricopa County and one in Pima County, that provide case management services for youth and families who need help attaining or maintaining permanency and for young adults who are transitioning from foster care. In Maricopa County the agency also provides foster care placement supervision, including foster home recruitment and supervision, for a discreet number of youth. The priority population is the older youth, ages 11-18, who tend to experience more barriers to permanency and are at-risk of aging out of the foster care system without the numerous benefits of a safe and permanent family. The case management services that are provided in Pima County have an additional focus on kinship-involved youth, as the services are provided as part of the Tucson Kinship, Adoption, Research and Education (KARE) Center, a collaboration between Casey Family Programs and the Arizona’s Children Association. This practice is youth-focused, family-centered, and community based. Service delivery is individualized, culturally responsive, innovative and evidence-informed.

In addition to direct service, the Casey Family Programs provides strategic consulting at no cost to states by educating state and federal policymakers on the need for public policy changes that will help child welfare systems improve services for children and families; teaming with public, tribal and non-profit child welfare organizations to reduce systemic biases that contribute to disproportionality and increase permanency options; and, partner with community organizations, associations, philanthropies and corporations to promote effective child welfare practice and programs.

With support from Casey Family Programs, Permanency Roundtables for forty-two children were held in the Southeast Region in December 2011. These roundtables focused on older children, many of whom had experienced multiple placements. To date, five of these children have achieved permanency through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. Other children have seen improvement to their permanency prognosis or increased positive adult connections. During SFY 2013, Permanency Roundtables will be held in western Yavapai County, followed by Mohave County. These Roundtables will focus on children without identified placements and children who have a poor permanency prognosis. Permanency Roundtables will also be held in Yuma and La Paz Counties, followed by western Maricopa County. Yuma and La Paz Counties will focus on older youth and infants nearing the timely reunification mark of twelve months in care, and western Maricopa County will focus on the more than eighty youth who are legally free with no adoptive home identified.

The Arizona Field Office of Casey Family Programs is represented on the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team by Susan Hallett, Senior Director and Jakki Kolzow, Director.

**Source of Data:** Casey Family Programs, Susan Hallett, Senior Director Arizona Field Office, Personal Communication, 5.20.2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report 2012, Section VII: Factors Affecting Performance and SFY 2012 Accomplishments, page 151.

**22. List other existing foundation initiatives in your community that might be interested in supporting work relevant to child welfare and children in foster care.**

- Casey Family Programs
- Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
- Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Tucson United Way

**23. List any organizations that can assist with diversity training and technical assistance, particularly related to race (disproportionality), class, culture and sexual orientation in your current target area(s).**

Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team members identified the following organizations as potential sources for assistance with diversity training and technical assistance, particularly related to race (disproportionality), class, culture and sexual orientation:

- Casey Family Programs-Endless Dreams
- Arizona State University
- City of Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department
- City of Tucson Office of Equal Opportunity Programs
- University of Phoenix
- CASA Program
- Wingspan (Pima County)
- *one n ten*
- Behavioral Health Providers

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**24. Describe the potential to leverage resources in your current target area(s) (i.e., public agencies, local businesses, community foundations).**

Planning Team members were optimistic regarding opportunities to leverage resources for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative based on past and current efforts on behalf of this population and include public-private partnerships, collaborative grant applications and community partnerships with the business community. The strength of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative is the network of government agencies, organizations and programs with a successful history of working together and pooling resources to serve this population. Potential funders, such as corporations and financial institutions may be more inclined to support efforts that are collaborative and based on a national model

of proven and effective strategies that are more likely to yield successful outcomes (Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative). Key areas of focus will include:

- Engagement of the business community to increase employment and other opportunities for youth.
- Opportunities to maximize federal funding for programs serving youth transitioning from foster care including Title IV-E foster care funds, matched savings accounts, and financial aid for college and Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV).

**Source of Data:** Meeting with Beth Rosenberg and Meghan Arrigo, Children’s Action Alliance, July, 17, 2013.

**25. List the organizations in your current target area(s) that serve similar populations.**

***a) Are these organizations competitors for funding?***

***b) Are they potential (or current) partners?***

***c) What capacity can these organizations bring to your community and to your collaboration?***

There are quite a number of youth services providers throughout Arizona that serve broader youth populations through a wide range of programs and many that serve similar populations (including homeless, delinquent, mentally ill and at-risk youth). Some of these organizations may potentially compete for some sources of funding; however, some may serve as additional resources to transitioning youth and be partners in the delivery of services to this target population. In fact, many of the community agencies providing key services to foster youth (Arizona’s Children Association, Florence Crittenton, Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Tumbleweed, Open Inn, Our Family, HomeBase Youth Services, Canyon State Academy and Call a Teen) are currently participating on the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team. Many of these agencies provide a wide range of services to other at-risk populations and participate in networks beyond those focused on foster youth. The Arizona Council of Human Service Providers (ACHSP) provides a comprehensive list of organizations through its membership listing on the organization website ([www.azcouncil.com](http://www.azcouncil.com)).

## E. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS

**Objective:** To involve key stakeholders in using data to drive decision making and communications and in documenting results.

### 26. Describe your state's National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data collection efforts.

In Arizona, the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey was implemented during FY 2011 by ADES-DCYF, as required by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. The NYTD initial survey was administered to a cohort of youth in foster care within 45 days of their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. This cohort of young people will be surveyed again at ages 19 and 21 whether they are in or out of foster care. A new cohort will be surveyed every third year thereafter (i.e. 2014, 2017, etc.) beginning with the 17 year olds. ADES-DCYF scheduled the first follow up survey for the initial cohort group of youth 19 years of age between October 2012 and March 2013. ADES-DCYF staff utilize a multi-faceted approach to increase the response rate that includes strategies such as:

- Working with CPS Specialists to enter each young person's email address and cell phone number into the CHILDS database so they can be contacted for the NYTD survey.
- Offering on-line, paper and telephone interview options for administration of the survey
- Letters were sent to young people about the survey.
- Financial incentives were offered for participation.
- Follow up phone calls were made by ADES-DCYF staff to young people regarding the survey.
- Efforts were made to contact young people for the survey including follow up phone calls to former foster parents and contacts.

ADES-DCYF elected to implement the *regular* version of the NYTD survey instead of the longer *plus* version. Survey data is expected to be available in FY 2013.

**Source of Data:** Meeting with Children's Action Alliance Staff and Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF), 1.6.2013.

### 27. Describe other data collection efforts that may provide comparison data for your own local data collection efforts.

- **Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division for Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF)** –Annual reports, program evaluations and data collection concerning current and former foster care youth.
- **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**
- **Arizona Department of Health Services-Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS)** uses certain National Outcomes Measures (NOMs) domains as defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to assess behavioral health recipients' (BHR) treatment outcomes. If statistical data on current and former foster children receiving mental health services can be provided on a regular basis it would be instrumental in helping to track outcomes for this population.

- Information for the measures is pulled from the Client Information System (CIS), comparing each metric at intake to update/discharge for the following domains:
  - Substance Abstinence – the BHR has a history of drug/alcohol use, and reports no use in the 30 days prior to the assessment.
  - Stable Housing – the BHR is not homeless, but is living independently, at home with family, or in therapeutic foster care.
  - Employment – the BHR is employed full or part time with and without supports.
  - Education – the BHR is attending school or a vocational program.
  - Arrest-Free – the BHR reports no arrest in the 30 days prior to assessment.
  - Self-Help groups – the BHR participated in a self-help or recovery group within 30 days prior to the assessment. This domain was initiated in FY 2011.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Health Services – Division of Behavioral Health (ADHS-DBHS), Introduction and Behavioral Health System Performance Framework and Dashboard, FY 2012.

- Arizona Kids Count – Annie E. Casey Foundation- Children’s Action Alliance (CAA) is part of a national initiative, KIDS COUNT, to collect data and publish statistical reports on the condition of children. Key indicators of child well-being measure the health, social, educational and economic status of the state's children and compare them to those of the nation.
- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and Arizona Department of Education-Arizona Youth Survey
- Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts and Maricopa County Juvenile Court- Crossover Youth Practice Model
- Casey Family Programs
- Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment
- Research for Doctoral Dissertation: *Experiences of Foster care Youth Navigating the Mental Health System as they Age Out of Care*–Megan Hayes, MSW, Doctoral Student, Arizona State University, School of Social Work, Fall, 2013.

## **28. List any partners providing technical assistance related to self-evaluation.**

The following partners have provided technical assistance with data collection and analyses throughout the Environmental Scan planning process. The Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative will continue to rely on these partners and their expertise in the future as the project focuses on self-evaluation. Partners include:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families
- Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Childrens’ Services Division
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Children’s Action Alliance Staff and Consultants

- Joshua Oehler, MSW, Research Associate, Children’s Action Alliance- oversees KIDS Count for Arizona and other CAA research efforts.
- Jane Irvine, MSW, LCSW, Jane Irvine Consulting, is providing assistance with the Environmental Scan and has extensive experience conducting evaluations for child welfare programs and cross-systems efforts.



## **29. List any partners providing technical assistance related to communications.**

The State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC), formed in 2012 and housed at First Focus in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan center that works to engage, build, and support a network of state child welfare policy advocates working to achieve child welfare system reforms. Arizona is one of six invited states participating in the SPARC State Leadership Initiative working towards creating state-to-state learning environments that will move the entire field forward. An advantage of CAA's Leadership Initiative role is receiving communications technical assistance when needed regarding communications strategies and messaging narratives to strengthen the overall effectiveness of our advocacy efforts.

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance, Beth Rosenberg, Director of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, Personal Communication, 5.24.2013, State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC) ([/childwelfaresparc.com](http://childwelfaresparc.com)).

## F. PUBLIC WILL AND POLICY

**Objective:** To advance policy and practice that improves outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care.

### 30. List any major transitions in political leadership about to take place that could have an impact on transitioning youth.

Governor Jan Brewer will complete her second term and a new governor will be elected in 2014. Changes to the legislative and executive branches, however, are not expected to dramatically impact progress made in the child welfare system as so much of this work is driven by bi-partisan legislative efforts, federal programs and existing state statutes and policy. Furthermore, while a new governor may mean a new ADES Director, the administrative leadership within the department that is responsible for the implementation of the programs related to foster care and transitioning youth is more stable with long time professional staff. Therefore, progress in the delivery of services to this population should remain a priority.

### 31. What are the current needs and priorities identified by young people transitioning from foster care in the following areas?

#### a) Permanence

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- According to the young people interviewed, the frequency of contact with CPS Specialists varies widely from weekly to once in three months. Young persons stressed the need to have frequent contact with CPS Specialists (CPSS) and access by email and phone. Most youth see their CPS Specialist once a month. Communications with their CPS Specialist are vital to the decisions such as contact with family members, friends and placement. Young people anxious over placements or decisions wanted more frequent access to CPSS.

*“My caseworker always called me on my birthday, except one year she didn’t and I was disappointed.”*

- Although many of the youth had involvement in their case plans and participated in Child and Family Team Meetings, most youth did not have copies of their case plans and were unclear as to specifics contained in their plans.

*“My caseworker asked me what I wanted to work on and about my strengths and weaknesses.”*

*“I don’t want to be adopted again because I was once adopted and it didn’t work out.”*

*“I hope to be back with my mother and out of foster care by the time I am 18.”*

- Many youth lack information as to the reasons they were placed in foster care or their family history.

*“My case plan is reunification. I know it won’t happen. My parents never received any services to help them.”*

- Foster alumni who had read their case records, often years later, were surprised and concerned to find out that relatives had inquired about them and they were never told.

*“When I turned 18 I read my case record and learned my grandparents had inquired about me but were rejected. I was never told about them wanting me and that hurt. I just wonder if all the years I spent in foster care could have been avoided.”*

- Mentors who were foster alumni shared experiences of running away from foster homes or group homes. They sometimes located older siblings or relatives to assist them or got jobs, such as waitresses or construction to survive.

*“I stayed at school for unnecessary tutoring and sports so I didn’t have to deal with my foster parents.”*

Youth offered a range of opinions on continuation of foster care beyond 18. Youth who had chosen to extend care or were planning to cited reasons such as the educational, financial and health care benefits available to them, Other youth chose not to participate in programs such as the Independent Living Subsidy Program or continued placement beyond 18 because they wanted to be free to make their own choices and not have to be accountable to the rules or constraints posed by ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists and case plans such as approval of roommates, required contacts, work and school requirements etc. For other youth they moved out on their own without services and changed their mind after some difficult experiences and returned to enroll in ADES-DCYF and or mental health services. Unfortunately, according to many of the agency staff interviewed, many of the returning youth are in crisis and require intensive services to help them stabilize their situation.

One of the young men participating in a focus group shared a tribute he wrote about his case manager and their relationship.

***Who is Patrick to me? By K.***

*A father I would say  
 The best case manager Bob would say  
 Through thick and thin you have always been my friend  
 I tell him everything  
 And he never judges me.  
 I’ve known him for 8 years  
 Not one of these years has he given me a beer  
 Who is Patrick to me?  
 A tree with long leaves  
 The wind being my grief  
 When the wind blows against this tree  
 Nothing happens he stays  
 Which is unusual for a kid like me  
 Patrick I wish I could repay you for all you have done  
 And I thank God for bringing you in my life  
 PS In the future when I work with kids all the advice you gave me I will pass it to them  
 and they will pass it to other generations.*

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

## b) Employment

Individuals from agencies working with youth transitioning from foster care in addition to young people interviewed stressed the importance of personal documents and the difficulty acquiring them.

As a prerequisite to employment, education, health benefits and other benefits, young people need to have a range of personal documents their social security cards, birth certificates, immigration documents, school records, health histories, family information, credit history, court records and other pertinent documents. In most cases, some assistance is required to obtain all the documents. In some cases, youth may need legal assistance to resolve matters on their behalf such as immigration issues, credit problems due to identity theft, or documentation of their legal status in foster care.

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- More emphasis should be placed on providing individual assistance with resumes, job applications and building a network of employers who are willing to hire foster youth and alumni.

*“I need help with interviewing skills, especially since I have a criminal record.”*

- Opportunities to gain work experience at 16-18 years of age would be beneficial to seeking employment when they leave foster care.

*“I like to work to earn money to pay for myself. I got hired at Albertson’s with the help of my foster mother.”*

*“I got my own job so I wouldn’t be a burden to my aunt.”*

*“I ran away from a foster home when I was 16 to live with my older sister. I got a job as a waitress using my sister’s ID.”*

- Youth expressed confidence in what they had learned from sessions with contracted Independent Living Services Specialists in areas of job applications, transportation etc.
- Female teens that were pregnant or parenting frequently cited child care arrangements and parenting responsibilities as a barrier to their participating in employment.
- Youth indicated job preparation training that included computer skills, communication with the public, retail sales, and internships was most helpful.

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

According to a survey conducted by PASSAGE Transition Coalition of current and former youth and agency staff top-ranked barriers to employment include:

- Lack of reliable transportation
- Lack of job skill training

- Lack of job search and application skills

**Source of Data:** PASSAGE Transition Coalition, Foster Youth Transition Readiness: Survey Results Report, June 2012.

### c) Education

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- Most of the young people were enrolled in a high school education program with older youth frequently enrolled in post-secondary education such as community college, vocational program or university.
- GED Programs are beneficial for many foster youth who lack sufficient credits to be on track for high school graduation.
- Career goals were eagerly shared by the youth and were aspirational. Examples included veterinarian, lawyer, pediatrician, cosmetologist, nurse and midwife.
- Educational benefits (such as the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV) and Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP) available to young people transitioning from foster care were cited by youth as important factors in their decision to remain involved with ADES-DCYF services beyond age 18.

*“I wish someone had explained more about college to me, courses I would need to take, etc.”*

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

### d) Social Capital

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- Visits and contact with their parents and siblings were important but sometimes emotional experiences. Young people were afraid CPSS would stop visits if they appeared upset or emotional.

*“Cutting off visits with family makes the emotional pain worse.”*

*“I have maintained my relationship with my brother who was adopted because my foster parents and brother’s adoptive parents are very close so they facilitate visits and invite me to spend the night.”*

*“I was helped by a Youth Advocate from the Fostering Readiness and Permanency Program (FRP) develop a relationship with a family of a friend I met at school I spend time with my (non – biological) family and will go there after I finish high school. I have a crappy family and can’t count on them.”*

*“I found my grandpa, uncles and a cousin. Did it myself, on Facebook.”*

- Relationships with CASAs and mentors were viewed as very positive and long-term.

*“My CASA is the main person who has helped me for seven years. I see her once a week.”*

*“I have a MIKID- Mentally Ill Kids in Distress, mentor who has kept in contact with me for five years. “*

*“One of my teachers still wants to adopt me, I love her.”*

*“My attorney helps me beat my cases and has my back. I see her every three months when she comes to my school to review my case and what I have been doing.”*

- Participating in MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment) has helped individual youth with their personal lives.

*“I am looking forward to full independence, seeing my sister and brothers every day, getting away from my caseworker and being treated like an adult. I live in a group home and am not even trusted to go on a walk, talk to my boyfriend or other friends on the phone.”*

- Mentoring Programs that match foster alumni with foster youth, such as Arizona’s Children Association, *In My Shoes* program were viewed as beneficial by the youth and adult participants due to the understanding and connection based on the shared experience of foster care.

*“I am 16 and have been in CPS since age six. My mentor is like a father figure to me and inspires me. I want to take over (Arizona’s Children Association -In My Shoes) when I get older.”*

*“I have a tattoo on my finger with the date I moved in with my favorite foster family.”*

*“I am a mentor because I feel I can relate to their experience. I was in foster care for nine years and was emancipated at 17 years old and lived with my brother until I got on my feet. I became a social worker and have worked as a CPS caseworker. I have children of my own. “*

*“I hate to tell people I live in a group home.”*

*“I never talked about being in foster care until I met my Arizona’s Children Association -In My Shoes mentor.”*

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona’s Children Association-In My Shoes, (<http://www.arizonaschildren.org>), Interview with Christa Drake, Program Coordinator, 3.26.2013.

Key findings from a survey of 20 youth participating in the 2013 ADES-DCYF Youth Conference include:

- 90% of youth surveyed indicated they had enough people to count on in a crisis to give them good advice.

- 80% of youth surveyed indicated they had enough people to count on to give them advice about a job or school.
- 50% of youth surveyed indicated they had too few people to count on if they needed someone to loan them money in an emergency.
- 90% of youth surveyed indicated they have an adult in their family they can always turn to for support.
- 85% of youth surveyed indicated they have an adult other than a family member that they can always be able to turn to for support.

Selected results from the Youth Survey are presented below and the full survey results can be found in Appendix 3.

**Q.28 When you need someone to give you good advice about a crisis, are there...**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	90.0%	18
Too few people you can count on	10.0%	2
No one you can count on	0.0%	0
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.29 When you need someone to give you advice about your job or school, are there..**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	80.0%	16
Too few people you can count on	20.0%	4
No one you can count on	0.0%	0
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.30 When you need someone to loan you money in an emergency, are there....**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	35.0%	7
Too few people you can count on	50.0%	10
No one you can count on	15.0%	3
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.31 Do you have an adult in your family that you will always be able to turn to for support? (for example, birth or adoptive parent, spouse, adult sibling, extended family member, legal guardian)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.0%	18
No	10.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.32 If yes, which one adult family member do you turn to most often? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Birth parent	22.2%	4
Adoptive parent	11.1%	2
Spouse	0.0%	0
Adult sibling	16.7%	3
Extended family member (for example, aunt, grandfather, cousin, etc.)	16.7%	3
Legal guardian	33.3%	6
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>18</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Q.33 If you need it, what can you count on this person to do? If needed, I can count on him or her to...(Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Celebrate special events with me, such as my birthday, holidays, etc.	76.5%	13
Talk with me about my problems	100.0%	17
Help me feel good about myself	76.5%	13
Be trusted with my most private information	76.5%	13
Provide me with a place to live	70.6%	12
Help me find a job	64.7%	11
Help me if I am sick	82.4%	14
Celebrate my successes with me, such as school graduation, getting a new job, find a college or school, helping you fill out new job, etc.	76.5%	13
Help me get into college, community college or vocational school (FYI Helping you get into school includes any support you don't need to pay for like helping you find a college or school, helping you fill out applications, taking you to college visits etc.)	58.8%	10
Help me pay for some or all of my education	47.1%	8
Help me care for my children	5.9%	1
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>



**Q.34 Do you have an adult other than a family member that you will always be able to turn to for support?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.0%	17
No	15.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.35 If yes, which one adult would you turn to most often? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Foster parent	33.3%	5
Caseworker (includes case coordinator, case manager, social worker, Independent Living staff, Life Skills worker, Chafee worker, Transition Specialist)	40.0%	6
Teacher	0.0%	0
Someone from my church or faith-based community	13.3%	2
Mentor	13.3%	2
Other (please specify)		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

**Q.36 If you need it, what can you count on this person to do? If needed, I can count on him or her to...(Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Celebrate special events with me, such as my birthday, holidays, etc.	58.8%	10
Talk with me about my problems	76.5%	13
Help me feel good about myself	52.9%	9
Be trusted with my most private information	52.9%	9
Provide me with a place to live	35.3%	6
Help me find a job	64.7%	11
Help me if I am sick	35.3%	6
Celebrate my successes with me, such as school graduation, getting a new job etc.	64.7%	11
Helping me get into college, community college or vocational school (FYI Helping you get into school includes any support you don't need to pay for like helping you find a college or school, helping you fill out applications, taking you to college visits, etc.)	41.2%	7
Help me pay for some or all of my education	23.5%	4
Help me care for my children	11.8%	2
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Survey of 20 youth attending the ADES-DCYF Arizona Youth Conference, June 26, 2013, Appendix 3.

## e) Financial Capability

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- Youth expressed confidence in what they had learned from sessions with contracted Independent Living Services Specialists in areas of budgeting, education, apartment hunting, job applications and transportation, etc.

*“I understand the difference between wants and needs. I save half of my paycheck from my job at Goodwill. I use an app on my phone to track how much money I have.”*

- Young people still in foster care had minimal experience with bank accounts, credit cards and budgeting.

*“I bought a car but I don’t have a driver’s license.”*

*“Most group homes want you to be 16 to have a cell phone...you have to pay your own bill.”*

- For most of the youth, moving into their own apartment was their first experience with paying bills, budgeting, banking and employment.

*“My CPS caseworker helped me get my Social Security card and find a place to live. The housing voucher and APS (utility) contact was helpful.”*

- Benefits offered by ADES-DCYF for youth transitioning from foster care are an incentive to youth to remain in the programs.

*“I am staying with ADES as long as I can for the education, health and child care benefits.”*

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of 20 youth participating in the 2013 ADES-DCYF Youth Conference include:

- 65% of youth surveyed indicated they had a bank account, 92% savings and 69% checking.
- 55% of youth surveyed indicated they had enough money to cover their expenses in the last month.
- 45% of youth surveyed indicated they had savings.
- 20% of youth surveyed indicated they owe money (67% to family members or friends and 33% have student loans.)

Selected results from the Youth Survey are presented below and the full survey results can be found in Appendix 3.

**Q.65 Right now, do you have a bank, or credit union, account into which you can deposit and withdraw money? (HELP: This is an account that you can use anytime for all of your financial needs. This account is not in overdraft status or Chex systems.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	65.0%	13
No	35.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.66 (If yes) What kind of account do you have? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Savings Account	92.3%	12
Checking Account	69.2%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>13</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>7</b>

**Q.67 In the past month did you have enough money to cover your expenses (e.g. rent, bills, food, transportation, school supplies, child care, school loans, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.0%	11
No	45.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.68 How did you cover your expenses? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Got money from a job or found additional work	21.1%	4
Used money from student loans or scholarships	10.5%	2
Got money that I do NOT have to repay from a family member or friend	26.3%	5
Got money that I have to repay from a family member or friend	10.5%	2
Got a loan from a bank or credit union	0.0%	0
Got money from some other type of lender (e.g. payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	0.0%	0
Got money from stipend, organization or agency (Independent Living classes, speaking engagements, community agency, etc.)	10.5%	2
Used money that I saved for other purposes (savings be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union etc.)	10.5%	2
Sold some of my possessions	10.5%	2
Used my credit cards	0.0%	0
Overdrew my bank account (go negative)	0.0%	0
Used government resources (e.g. welfare, child support, TANF, WIC, SNAP, state funds, food stamps, etc.)	15.8%	3
I did not cover my expenses	31.6%	6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.69 What would you do if you had an emergency and needed \$500 dollars? (Please check all that apply) (HELP: Experts have found that \$500 is an amount of money that people often need in emergencies. Try to imagine what you would do if you needed \$500 in an emergency right now.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Get money from a job or found additional work	35.3%	6
Use money from student loans or scholarships	17.6%	3
Get money from a family member or friend	41.2%	7
Get a loan from a bank or credit union	29.4%	5
Get money from some other type of lender (e.g. payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	17.6%	3
Get money from stipend, organization or agency (Independent Living classes, speaking engagements, community agency, etc.)	11.8%	2
Use money that I saved for other purposes (savings be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union etc.)	17.6%	3
Sell some of my possessions	29.4%	5
Use my credit cards	0.0%	0
Overdraw my bank account (go negative)	5.9%	1
Use government resources (e.g. welfare, child support, TANF, WIC, SNAP, state funds, food stamps, etc.)	23.5%	4
I would not know what to do	29.4%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q.70 Do you currently have any savings (savings can be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union, asked a family member or friend to keep for you, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.0%	9
No	55.0%	11
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.71 Do you currently owe money?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	4
No	80.0%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.72 (If yes) Who do you owe money to? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Family member or friend (e.g. foster parent; adoptive parent; biological parent; sibling; extended family member like a cousin, grandparent, or aunt, significant other, etc.)	66.7%	2
Credit card	0.0%	0
Student loans	33.3%	1
Home mortgage	0.0%	0
Bank or credit loan	0.0%	0
Car or other motor vehicle loan	0.0%	0
Student obligations (e.g. PELL grant, parking fees, activity fees, library fees, housing, etc.)	0.0%	0
Bank account (e.g., Chex systems, overdraft fees, etc.)	0.0%	0
Child support	0.0%	0
Other type of lender (e.g., payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	0.0%	0
Medical expense (e.g., insurance, hospital, doctor, co-pay bills, etc.)	0.0%	0
Court related costs (e.g. restitution, fees, etc.)	0.0%	0
Employer	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>3</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>17</b>

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Survey of 20 youth attending the Arizona Youth Conference, June 26, 2013, Appendix 3.

**f) Housing**

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- Youth expressed confidence in what they had learned from sessions with contracted Independent Living Services Specialists in areas of apartment hunting, transportation, budgeting, etc.
- Programs and services offered by ADES-DCYF for transitioning youth including the Independent Living Subsidy Program was frequently mentioned as a consideration to remain in foster care beyond 18 or continue participating in independent living services.
- Young people expressed frustration with how the Independent Living Subsidy Program is implemented including lack of clear requirements and guidelines, unrealistic expectations and inconsistent implementation by the CPS Specialists.

*“I signed a voluntary agreement at 18 in hopes of being approved for the Independent Living Subsidy Program. I continued living in a group home for almost a year waiting for my CPS case manager to help me get approved for the Independent Living Subsidy Program. I felt like she was avoiding the subject. I eventually left the group home and moved in with my mother. When I contacted my case manager, she was told me my case had been closed and I could not be considered for the Independent Living Subsidy Program.”*

*“I transitioned out of the Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP). I am now in the Transitional Independent Living Program and getting more done and am more independent. The school requirements of the ILSP (working or going to school 32 hours a week) were difficult for me to meet. I am helping my sister who lives in a group home which is a top priority. My boyfriend has been a source of support for me.”*

*“I rented a room in a house from a woman that has worked out well. I feel safe living in a room in a house. I get to use the washer and dryer. I found it on Craig’s List.”*

*“I want to live alone. People steal from me that come over.”*

*“I will live in a college dorm.”*

*“I pay rent to my foster mom and will stay there until I get a job. My foster mother kept me and my four siblings together.”*

*“My family has taken advantage of me when I have money or resources.”*

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

Key findings from a survey of 20 youth participating in the 2013 ADES-DCYF Youth Conference include:

- 21% of youth surveyed indicated they lived independently.
- 21% of youth surveyed indicated they paid rent.
- 25% of youth surveyed indicated they had slept in a homeless shelter.
- 61% of youth surveyed indicated they had affordable housing.
- 100% of youth surveyed indicated they felt safe inside their home.
- 80% of youth surveyed indicated they have access to transportation to get to school and work.
- 5% of youth surveyed indicated they had a valid driver’s license.
- 20% of youth surveyed indicated they had a motor vehicle.

Selected results from the Youth Survey are presented below and the full survey results can be found in Appendix 3.

**Q.38 Where are you currently living? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Living Independently (by myself, with a friend, roommate, boyfriend, girlfriend, fiancé, husband, wife, etc.)	21.1%	4
Living with Family (Birth parents, other relative such as aunt, brother or sister, Adoptive parents, legal guardian)	21.1%	4
Living in a Foster Home	26.3%	5
Living in a Group Setting (Group home or Residential Treatment Facility)	15.8%	3
Living in a School Dormitory (Indian Boarding School or college dormitory)	0.0%	0
Independent Living Program or Supervised Independent Living Program or Transitional Living Program	15.8%	3
Couch Surfing or Moving from House to House (because you don't have a place to stay)	0.0%	0
Homeless (includes living in a homeless shelter)	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

*skipped question* **0**

**Q.41 Have you ever slept in a homeless shelter or in a place where people weren't meant to sleep (for example, a car, the street) because you didn't have a place to stay?)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	25.0%	5
No	75.0%	15
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.42 Do you pay for housing? (FYI If you are paying for some of your rent, you should say YES)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	21.1%	4
No	78.9%	15
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.43 Is your housing affordable? (FYI Affordable means you can pay for your housing and still have enough for other expenses such as food, transportation and utilities.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	61.1%	11
No	38.9%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>18</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Q.44 Do you feel safe inside your home?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	20
No	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.47 Do you have access to the transportation you need to get to school or work?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.0%	16
No	20.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.48 Do you have a valid driver's license?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	5.0%	1
No	95.0%	19
I'm not old enough	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.49 Do you own a motor vehicle (for example, car, van, truck, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	4
No	80.0%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Survey of 20 youth attending the Arizona Youth Conference, June 26, 2013, Appendix 3.



## **g) Physical and mental health**

Key themes and examples of comments from young people participating in focus group discussions include:

- The majority of transitioning youth were unclear as to details of their options for medical coverage when they leave foster care.

*“Once I leave CPS, I am not sure whether I will continue to have to take medication. Now it is a requirement of my case plan.”*

*“I am not going to counseling. I don’t want to be put on medication again. I just want someone to talk to.”*

*“I don’t really understand all the medication.”*

- Young people indicated they had considered health insurance in their transition plans and either planned to be insured by a parent or believed they would be eligible for AHCCCS (Medicaid-YATI). Few young people were familiar with the Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) coverage and enrollment requirements.
- Most young people were unaware as to how the Affordable Health Care Act would extend their eligibility for health insurance coverage to their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Source of Data:** Youth Focus Groups conducted by Children’s Action Alliance for the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, April-June 2013.

## **32. What evidence is there of increased public awareness and public will in support of young people transitioning from foster care, in your current target area(s) and statewide?**

Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning team members underscored examples of recent evidence of increased public awareness and support.

The Arizona Republic published a year-long investigative series *Saving Arizona’s Children* focusing on Arizona’s child welfare system. Senior reporters Mary K. Reinhart and Sean Holstege, photographer Nick Oza and their editor, Christina Leonard, were the key contributors to this year-long series. Some of the articles featured in the series included:

- February 26, 2012 - *Big cuts to AZ program hit families*  
Child-Welfare advocates say reductions put more children at risk of abuse and neglect because families have fewer places to go.
- February 28, 2012 - *Child deaths’ awful pattern*  
Year after year, state child abuse investigators document the same pattern. Among them: Mothers are more likely than anyone to kill their kids.
- March 4, 2012 - *CPS workers under siege*  
Heavy caseloads, backlogs of unopened cases, outdated or non-existent technology, time-sucking paperwork, low morale, stagnant pay, loss of seasoned workers and supervisors, and the overall emotional drain has left CPS with dozens of vacancies.

- March 21, 2012 - *As reports rise, CPS struggles*  
A new report reveals the child-protection agency is struggling to cope with a dramatic rise in abuse, neglected reports and an unprecedented number of kids in foster care.
- March 25, 2012- *Reformers:1st response is crucial*  
The preliminary investigation into child-abuse and neglect allegations is perhaps the most critical piece of the child-welfare system. Child Protective Services caseworker Wendy Rosenberg talks with Phoenix police officers. Reformers want CPS and police to work more closely together.
- April 28, 2012- *In dire need of foster families*  
Families leave the foster care system faster than new ones come in. Many cite their frustration with the state system's inability to help them,
- April 29, 2012 - *Woman a survivor of the system*  
Yvette Winsor has been in foster care since she was 2 years old. She's been in 18 separate placements throughout her life.
- April 30, 2012 - *Foster family has cared for 160 kids over past 28 years*  
The Reeds are content to work with the birth parents with the hope to see the children eventually returned to their families.
- May 27, 2012- *Flood of cases overloads court system*  
The number of child abuse and neglect cases has lengthened the average time children spend in foster care, created waiting lists, and increased caseloads for attorneys.
- May 28, 2012 -*When abuse turns fatal*  
Between 20 and 30 children have died in child abuse homicides in Arizona each year, in recent years.
- June 24, 2012 - *Spotting child abuse: How to help*  
It's unknown how many cases of child abuse or neglect aren't reported every year, but experts know cases are underreported. More often than not, somebody saw or heard something suspicious but didn't do anything about it.
- July 15, 2012 - *Programs aim to find homes for kids (Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project (FRP)-Family Finding and Arizona Families First-Substance Abuse Treatment)*  
Thousands of children spend their formative years in Arizona's foster care system, never reuniting with parents or siblings and losing family connections. Two promising programs will try to tackle that problem.
- July 16, 2012- *Helping parents that struggle with drug abuse*  
Too often, parents with an addiction refuse treatment or relapse. Their children go back and forth between home and foster care, as their parents try to get clean.
- September 2, 2012 -*Foster kids live far from home*  
Because of a record number of children in foster care, hundreds are living miles from their families or must live in crisis shelters or group homes.
- October 21, 2012 -*Violence kills at least 12 kids in 2012*  
The number of children dying at the hands of abusive parents in Arizona shows no signs of abating.

- November 25, 2012 -*Who helps when adoptions unravel?*  
More adoptive parents are returning their kids to the state's care in the hope that the deeply troubled youngsters will receive effective mental health treatment.
- December 23, 2012-*A system still in crisis*  
State leaders set out last year to reform the agency tasked with protecting Arizona's most vulnerable citizens. Twelve months later, Child Protective Services remains overwhelmed by children in need and the toll of budget cuts.

The Arizona Republic's *Saving Arizona's Children* series was followed by editorial and opinion columns supporting reforms and increased funding for the child welfare system. A May 22, 2013 lead editorial noting that CPS worker caseloads are double the state's own standards...and supporting \$77 million for 150 more caseworkers and a range of other services to help the state's most vulnerable children is an example.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Republic, *Saving Arizona's Children* (www.azcentral.com) February 26-December 23, 2012, Editorial, May 22, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team included additional examples of increased public awareness and public will in support of young adults transitioning from foster care:

- Passage of Foster Care Tuition Waiver legislation in the 2013 Legislative session.
- Governor's CPS Task Force drew attention to foster care, but not specifically to issues impacting transitioning youth.
- Foster children are a constituency that our policy makers are concerned about.
- Recognizable individuals and corporations such as Wendy's Wonderful Kids are pursuing national efforts to educate the public on foster care and adoption.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting April, 23.2013.

### **33. What are some recent (within the past year) successes of the child welfare system related to improving supports and services to transitioning youth upon which the five core strategies could build?**

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team listed the following successes for Arizona's child welfare system upon which the five core strategies could build:

#### **Independent Living Services-Partnership with Community Child Welfare Agencies**

ADES-DCYF has long history of partnerships with community child welfare agencies to provide Independent Living Skills training and services to youth transitioning from foster care. These agencies are able to collaborate with CPS Specialists and provide supplemental and complementary services focused on preparation and transition to independent living. The services have evolved and expanded over the past decade, reflecting changes in state and federal laws and benefits.

- ADES-DCYF contracted with Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) to provide Independent Living Services statewide to youth ages 16 through 20 (up to 21) in the Independent Living Program (ILP) or Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) and Transitional Independent Living

Program (TILP). The contract Scope of Work targets 1,107 young adults between the ages of 16 to 21 in the care of ADES-DCYF and being served through the Independent Living Program and projects 250 Youth (18 to 21) for the Transitional Independent Living Program. Youth served in the ILP or AYAP program are assigned CPS case managers whereas the youth enrolled in the TILP program do not have a CPS case manager assigned and work solely with the AzCA Independent Living Specialists. The contract Scope of Work outlines requirements for service delivery that include:

- A minimum of three in-person contacts and three collateral contacts (with CPS Specialists and others) during a month for youth in the Independent Living Program (Arizona Young Adult Program (ages 16 to 21).
- A minimum of two in-person and collateral contacts (phone, mail) during a month for youth served in the Transitional Independent Living Program (ages 18 to -21).

Performance Measures include:

- 70% of all participants will obtain their GED, High School Diploma or will be enrolled in a secondary education program.
- 70% of participants who have already obtained their GED or Diploma will be enrolled in a postsecondary education program, enrolled in a training program, or employed in a job making a wage that meets the minimum needs of the individual.
- 80% of participants will have a long term dedicated adult in their life that they can go to for advice or emotional support.
- 70% of Transitional Independent Living Youth who have ended services will have achieved their goals listed on the *Benefits Agreement*.

The contract outlines best practice approaches utilized by AzCA in providing the independent living services including:

- Transition to Independence Process (TIP)
- Determining Another Path (DAP)
- Peer Mentoring Programs, Safe Harbor (for youth struggling with substance abuse)
- Ansell Casey Curriculum
- In My Shoes is a program of Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) whose mission is to ensure that young people experiencing out-of-home care will be supported through their transitional years to develop the competencies to realize their potential as adults. The organization was created by alumni of foster care and close allies in the child welfare system. AzCA merged with In My Shoes in July 2010, and continues to expand the mentoring focus as a part of independent living services statewide. The staff, mentors, and club facilitators are all adults who were once raised in the foster care system and are committed to improving the lives of their brothers and sisters of foster care. In My Shoes mentors offer one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, events, and increase awareness. The mentors provide a supportive network as many have professional expertise working in behavioral health, health care, and social service fields.

**Source of Data:** Arizona's Children Association ([www.arizonaschildren.org](http://www.arizonaschildren.org)), Interview with Christa Drake, Program Coordinator, 3.26.2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security, Independent Living (Young Adult and Transitional Independent Living Program) Contract with Arizona's Children Association Scope of Work BFAO Attachment 02 Brief Summary, ADES13-045169.

Additional successes include:

- Casey Family Programs is addressing permanency issues with ADES-DCYF through strategic consulting initiatives focused on assisting youth with making permanent connections and placements and Permanency Roundtables.
- The Federal Adoption Act has provided additional funding for the Adoption Subsidy Program that has allowed families to adopt children and youth that would otherwise have remained in the foster care system.
- Karl Dennis and John VanDenBerg worked with children in foster care and developed the “wrap around process,” a promising approach. Their philosophy was based on uncommitted care, one plan. They came to Arizona and did some training with the judges.
- Private entities, which are constrained by funding, are assisted with “filling in the gap.” For example, the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation collaborates with a private philanthropist, Paul Blavin. The Blavin Scholar Program provides four former foster children tuition and fees, year round housing, laptop computers, on campus summer employment, faculty mentors, counseling and academic guidance at Northern Arizona University (NAU). This program is involved with the four recipients from start to finish. Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation also matches mentors with youth to attend college freshman orientation.
- SB 1208 Tuition Waiver Bill initiated by the Children’s Action Alliance and Valley Leadership will provide tuition waivers for current and former foster youth at Arizona’s three state universities and 21 community colleges beginning no later than the spring 2014 semester.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report 2012, Section VII: Factors Affecting Performance and SFY 2012 Accomplishments, page 151.

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance Meeting on Tuition Waiver Legislation on July 24, 2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Education (azed.gov).

### **34. What is the recent (within the past year) history of “hot issues” related to child welfare (child deaths, missing children, special panel appointments, etc.)?**

Recent issues facing Arizona’s child welfare system include increased number of child abuse investigations, high caseloads, shortages of foster homes and growing numbers of children in foster care. These problems have been highly publicized in the media, addressed in reports and mentioned in Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team meetings.

Key themes from a discussion with ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists (case managers) and Arizona’s Children Association Independent Living Specialists serving youth transitioning from care focused on caseload size and transition from children’s mental health services. Examples of discussion points included:

- ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists current have 40-45 youth on their caseload in the Arizona Young Adult Program units. With this caseload size, the case managers can’t do social work, just minimal case management due to time constraints. For a metropolitan area, 20-25 youth is a more realistic caseload. In Yuma County, case managers were carrying 20-25 cases and they indicated they were able to keep up with their responsibilities. In rural counties caseloads need to

be lower due to the significant travel time required. One case manager from Coconino County was carrying a caseload of 9-10 youth which was working well. She explained that she often traveled 3-5 hours to visit some of her young people.

- Staff turnover in ADES-DCYF compounds the problem of high caseloads. When a unit loses a CPS Specialist, the rest of the staff pick up the cases until a replacement is hired.
- In Yuma County, the four behavioral health providers serving both adults and children have worked to begin transitioning youth who are receiving children's mental health services to adult services at age 17.5 years. Providers have made efforts to let the child stay with the same clinician when they move into the adult services program, which is helpful.
- In northern Arizona, housing for SMI clients is very limited.
- In some counties foster youth receive priority for Section 8 Housing. Case managers from Yuma had used this resource and found it helpful.
- In Maricopa County, housing opportunities for SMI youth are limited. Other problems which limit housing options for youth include bad credit ratings, prior broken leases, delinquency histories, and being a registered sex offender.

**Source of Data:** Focus Group conducted with ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists assigned to the Arizona Young Adult Program and similar caseloads in rural counties and Arizona's Children Association Independent Living Specialists by Children's Action Alliance, June 27, 2013.

An investigation published by the Arizona Republic, *Troubled Teens Arizona's troubled teens: At risk and overlooked* was comprised of a seven day special report, by Craig Harris and Rob O'Dell. Articles featured in the series included:

- February 17, 2013- *Day 1: At risk and overlooked*  
An Arizona Republic investigation finds some of Arizona's most severely troubled youth have reportedly been sexually and physically abused in residential treatment centers amid lax oversight by the state agencies that license, monitor, fund and assign children to the facilities.
- February 19, 2013- *DAY 2: Reports of misconduct and safety issues*  
An Arizona Republic special report examines Arizona's regulation of residential treatment centers for youth.
- February 20, 2013- *DAY 3: State oversight of juvenile centers lax*  
Records obtained by The Arizona Republic show the state has taken little or no substantial enforcement action against any of Arizona's 11 Level 1 facilities, despite numerous reports of sexual misconduct, physical violence, repeated runaways and other problems involving their mostly teenaged patients.
- February 21, 2013- *DAY 4: Arizona residential treatment center map*  
Arizona has 11 juvenile residential treatment centers classified as Level 1 facilities. This means the facilities provide 24-hour supervision and nursing care, as well as a school. The map shows their locations, and lists for each the maximum number of beds, state funding over three years, and incident reports filed from October 2009-October 2012.

- February 22, 2013-*DAY 5: Funded but not monitored*  
Arizona taxpayers spent \$78 million the past three years for troubled children to receive help for addictions and behavioral problems at nine residential centers without measuring the effectiveness of their treatment.
- February 23, 2013-*DAY 6: Reports go unaddressed*  
The state has failed to act on recurring allegations of runaways, violence and abuse of patients at juvenile residential treatment centers.
- February 24, 2013 -*Day 7: Promising alternative for treatment*  
A study shows that wraparound services lower costs and improve care for troubled youths by helping them at home.
- May 17, 2013-*Scrutiny of Scottsdale residential treatment center grows as more teens run away*  
A 14-year-old girl took drugs and had sex with a stranger after walking away last month from a Scottsdale residential treatment center whose problems with runaways had been documented in an Arizona Republic report.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Republic, *Troubled Teens Arizona's troubled teens: At risk and overlooked* \ (www.azcentral.com) February 17 - 24, and May 17, 2013.

### **Arizona Citizen Review Panel**

The Arizona Citizen Review Panel 2012 Annual Report addresses key findings exemplified from the individual case reviews and impact all children in foster care, especially transitioning youth. These findings include:

- **Funding reductions have negatively impacted the entire child welfare systems' ability to provide supports and services to children and families.** Impacts from the budget cuts appear to have limited Child Protective Services ability to adequately respond to families. When services were provided, they were observed to be brief and limited with cases being closed without observation of sustained behavior changes and few aftercare services in place.
- **Inadequate behavioral health assessments and limited access to quality behavioral health services.** Undiagnosed and untreated mental health problems in the parents and children of the families referred to Child Protective Services was identified in all 12 cases reviewed. Miscommunication between behavioral health providers and Child Protective Services, coupled with incomplete historical background information, contributed to frequent contradictory diagnoses that could lead to inappropriate interventions and placements.

*In two of the cases reviewed by the panels, the family was referred to Child Protective Services solely because the child's adoptive parent in one case, and grandparent in the other case, could not manage the child's behavior. In both of these cases, the panel members observed that, despite commendable dedication from both the Child Protective Services Specialist and behavioral health case manager, Child Protective Services was in no better position to meet the specific needs of these children. One of these children came into Child Protective Services at age 14 after being detained for assaulting a classmate. The juvenile court felt his parent was unable to meet his complex needs and ordered Child Protective Services to take custody. In the four years this child was in custody, he was in 15 different placements, including a six month placement in an acute psychiatric hospital. An alternative placement with the ability to meet his*

*specialized needs could not be identified. While the child was in Child Protective Services custody, he was never enrolled in school due to frequent moves from disrupted placements. Child Protective Services remained responsible for this child, at what was likely huge expense, until he aged out of the foster care system at age 18.*

- **Failure to recognize the impact of trauma.** Parental history of experiencing traumatic events as a victim was discovered in 75% of the cases reviewed in 2012. In these cases, parental traumatic events included the parent's history of maltreatment as a child, the death of a parent as a child, the death of their own child, sexual assault, domestic violence and traumatic experiences during military deployment. Despite this history, only one case identified trauma as a risk factor and interventions focused on resolving the trauma were not suggested.

The Recommendations section includes a recommendation that specifically addresses transitioning youth:

- The Juvenile Court should consider assigning a Court Appointed Special Advocate for all children found to be dependent, or at a minimum, giving priority to children under the age of six and those whose case plans are Independent Living.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Citizen Review Panel 2012 Annual Report, Arizona State University, Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy (cabhp.asu.edu, pp.11, 13).

The Child Safety Task Force Recommendations submitted to the Governor on December 30, 2011 primarily focused on strategies to improve child abuse investigations, training, staffing, foster home recruitment, transparency and accountability. Three specific recommendations addressed older youth in foster care:

- Foster children must be afforded information about the opportunity to obtain post-secondary and vocational education or other job skills. Provide information about scholarships and grants, including high schools, state universities and community colleges, to assist more foster children into post-secondary education.
- All foster care agencies and group homes dealing with ages 12-19 should be providing a life skills program to encourage school participation, graduation, emotional growth, and life skills to deal with stress and emotional issues. The purpose of the life skills program is to equip the children with life skills to be productive in society. The foster care agency must submit their life skill program to the licensing agency and be reviewed prior to renewing licenses.
- Study the benefits of granting authority to judges to order juveniles to remain in the young adult independent living system, until age 21.

**Source of Data:** Child Safety Task Force Recommendations, December, 2011, (<http://www.azgovernor.gov/CPS/>) pp. 6, 9.

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team highlighted the record number of child deaths (12) from abuse in 2012, as the primary issue of public concern.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, 4.23.2013.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Republic, *Violence kills at least 12 kids in 2012*, October 21, 2012.



**35. List the public policy advocates in your current target area(s) with a track record for addressing child welfare and other children and family well-being issues.**

Arizona has many dedicated public policy advocates both individuals and organizations with successful track records on child welfare and other related issues. The individuals serving on the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team and those individuals surveyed and interviewed for the completion of this environmental scan all play a significant role in advocating for the well-being of children and youth in our state, and for foster youth in particular, and are therefore considered public policy advocates themselves. Examples of key public policy advocates, both individuals and organizations, include:

- Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents
- Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
- Arizona Council of Human Services Providers
- Children's Action Alliance
- Morrison Institute of Public Policy
- First Things First
- Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO)
- Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Senator Nancy Barto
- Senator Adam Driggs
- Senator Leah Landrum Taylor
- Senator Linda Lopez
- Senator Katie Hobbs
- Representative Kate Brophy McGee
- Representative Debbie McCune Davis
- Governor Jan Brewer
- Mentally Ill Kids in Distress
- Family Involvement Center
- Valley Leadership

## G. INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES

**Objective:** To create an array of opportunities and help young people gain access to them.

**36. Describe the availability of financial institutions in your current target area(s) that are community-oriented, youth-friendly, and that may be willing to alter policies to benefit young people.**

ARIZONA BANKS TOP 25 MARICOPA COUNTY			
Rank	Name	Deposit Market Share	Branches
1	Wells Fargo	26.5%	261
2	JP Morgan Chase & Co	25.95%	296
3	Bank of America	20.77%	120
4	BMO Harris Bank	3.72%	44
5	BBVA Compass Bank	2.93%	49
6	National Bank of Arizona	2.13%	25
7	US Bank NA	1.72%	62
8	Alliance Bank of Arizona	1.72%	5
9	MidFirst Bank	1.64%	24
10	AmTrust, Division of New York Community Bank	1.46%	15
11	The Northern Trust Company	1.27%	2
12	Meridian Bank NA	1.16%	8
13	Washington Federal	1.01%	15
14	Mutual of Omaha Bank	.86%	9
15	Arizona Business Bank	0.69%	6
16	Johnson Bank	0.52%	5
17	Bank of Arizona	0.46%	5
18	Comerica Bank	0.44%	18
19	Biltmore Bank of Arizona	0.42%	2
20	TCF Bank Arizona	0.39%	5
21	Sunrise Bank of Arizona	0.37%	5
22	Arizona Bank and Trust	0.34%	7
23	FirstBank Arizona	0.25%	11
24	Enterprise Bank & Trust	0.23%	4
25	First Fidelity Bank NA	0.22%	4

**Source of Data:** Arizona Business Journal Book of Lists 2013, Banks, p. 84. NOTE Deposit Market Share is based on the FCIC's Deposit Market Share numbers for Maricopa County as of June 30, 2012.

<b>ARIZONA CREDIT UNIONS TOP 10</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Branches</b>
1	Desert Schools Federal Credit Union	\$3,078,866,717	50
2	Arizona Federal Credit Union	\$1,382,257,523	15
3	Arizona State Credit Union	\$1,352,673,551	9
4	Truwest Credit Union	\$792,188,806	9
5	Credit Union West	\$480,381,915	8
6	First Credit Union	\$420,735,654	7
7	Arizona Central Credit Union	\$403,400,650	5
8	SunWest Federal Credit Union	\$257,565,864	5
9	Deer Valley Credit Union	\$210,411,389	4
10	Aero Federal Credit Union	\$198,985,361	3

**Source of Data:** Arizona Business Journal Book of Lists 2013, Credit Unions p. 101. Note: Some credit unions have membership requirements restricted to company employees and family members.

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team suggested the following approaches to identify financial institutions that could be potential partners.

- Connect with smaller, local banks or credit unions (Arizona Federal Credit Union, Desert Schools, Bank of Arizona, etc.) as they often are connected to community issues and may want to help and support youth.
- Work with banks to have them waive overdraft and other fees for youth who are learning how to manage their money.
- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation has the bike program. Perhaps there is a way to partner with the business community to provide other incentive programs or need-based programs for youth.
- Arizona State University (ASU) has a fraternity that is focused on business. It would be great to see if an organization like theirs might be willing to do some mentoring (although required finger print clearances may be an issue).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, 4.23.2013.

### **37. Describe the potential for securing matched funds for matched savings (or IDAs)**

Arizona foundations and nonprofits have demonstrated success with matched savings initiatives. The Arizona Community Foundation experience provides an opportunity for a potential partnership with the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative.

#### **Arizona Community Foundation (ACF)**

Through their Arizona Family Economic Success initiative, Arizona Community Foundation partners with Arizona nonprofits to aid working families in building and sustaining financial health. Previously called “A Campaign for Working Families,” the program began in 2003 in the Arizona-Mexico border region through partnerships with ACF’s affiliates in Yuma and Cochise County as well as banks, grassroots advocates, faith-based groups, local community development organizations, state agencies and other community foundations. The program trains volunteers to assist qualifying families in filing their income tax returns and claiming their Earned Income Tax Credit, and assists in the creation of Individual Development Accounts—savings accounts that provide an incentive to work save and build assets as a means to reach economic self-sufficiency.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from JP Morgan Chase and a \$15,000 grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the program is now expanding across Arizona. ACF and other funding partners invested in Mesa Community College's Fast Tracking the Dream Program, which creates Individual Development Accounts to assist Mesa Community College students with higher education costs. Once an individual has opened an IDA account with an approved financial institution, his/her earned savings is matched with federal and non-federal matching dollars. Qualified savers may receive up to \$2,000 per individual and \$4,000 per household.

Also this year, with grants from Meridian Bank and Assets for Financial Independence, ACF garnered a total of \$100,000 to support the establishment of Individual Development Accounts for children. The participating children are enrolled in Arizona Quest for Kids, a nonprofit mentoring program that pairs fifth-grade students with a caring adult mentor who supports their academic and personal development through college and beyond. More than 40 children will be able to set up IDAs to help pay for tuition, books and fees at a community college or any of Arizona's three state universities. The children also learn about goal setting, financial literacy and leadership.

In 2010, the Arizona Community Foundation and its partners, the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits and FSG Social Impact Advisors, received a \$220,000 grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service. Matched with another \$220,000, the funds help a select cohort of 13 nonprofits providing financial literacy services in distressed communities to develop and implement a shared system for measuring their efforts. Known as Project SAM (Shared Asset Measurement), the program recently ended, and reportedly, these organizations have all benefited.

Arizona Community Foundation has also partnered with social service agencies including A New Leaf and Arizona Quest for Kids (which is now part of New Pathways for Youth) to establish Individual Development Account programs for youth.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Community Foundation ([www.azfoundation.org](http://www.azfoundation.org)), Meeting with Tony Banegas, Philanthropic Advisor-Programs, 3.15.2013.

### **38. Describe the availability of financial education training providers, including financial institutions and other community organizations.**

Financial education is a component of Independent Living Skills training (group and individual) provided by ADES-DCYF through their current contract with Arizona's Children Association (AzCA). In addition group homes also provide financial education training and life skills training. Most of the programs have developed and customized the curriculums and focus on banking, budgeting, credit building, savings and managing a household. Foster parents may also work with youth on an individual basis and provide financial education.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team, April 12, 2013 and Interview with Meghan Arrigo, Children's Action Alliance, July 29, 2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately 25% of respondents rated Independent Living Skills training as mostly to completely effective.

**Q.11 Legal Advocacy Survey: How effective is Independent Living Skills Training?**

Answered: 166 Skipped: 5

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	3.01%	20.48%	31.93%	21.08%	4.22%	19.28%	
<b>Number</b>	5	34	53	35	7	32	166

Examples of comments from respondents with suggestions include:

*“This is an area where foster parents can excel given the proper tool and help.”*

*“So far, my teenaged CASA child has not followed through on her end of scheduling. Again, there were changes in personnel, unclear interpretations of policies, and no follow-ups by assigned case manager. Some kids need prodding. That is the job of the case managers to keep the young adults motivated and informed.”*

*“The problem here is too little time to implement the training. Where ever the youth resides is who can spend the time and share knowledge to make a difference. Again more teamwork is needed to help a youth succeed.”*

*“Kids need so much more help in preparing for adulthood and independence. They graduate from the program and still don't know how to write out a check! They need more one on one help and also the kids need to be accountable.”*

*“Need more real world training like mock apartment living.”*

*“Waiting list is too long.”*

*“I think the youth who receive the training truly benefit from it.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

Approximately one third of foster parents surveyed did not have sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of Independent Living Skills training.

**Q.15.Foster Parent Survey: How effective is Independent Living Skills Training?**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	15.38%	15.38%	15.38%	11.54%	7.69%	34.62%	
<b>Number</b>	4	4	4	3	2	9	26

Examples of comments by respondents include suggestions for improvement:

*“In my experience, I am not even aware of this occurring present day. Of the training I did have experience with, it was not effective.”*

*“They had nothing to teach that we had not already been teaching.”*

*“Training inconsistent and staff lack professional skill to teach youth.”*

*“Children are aging out without the benefit of Independent Living Skills Training.”*

*“This is the arena that needs improvement.”*

*“Depends on the child. Sometimes they really don't like someone telling them how to live.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 28 foster parents with perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care, June 2013.

Arizona has a number of organizations that provide financial education programs for youth. Examples include:

- **Junior Achievement of Arizona**-provides a range of financial education programs in collaboration with K-12 schools including after school programs. In addition to the core K-12 classroom programs, Junior Achievement of Arizona also offers a learning experience for 7th - 12th graders called JA Finance Park. JA Finance Park enables students to build foundations for making intelligent lifelong personal finance decisions. The program is correlated to the Common Core Standards. In 19 teacher-led lessons, combined with a 4.5 hour onsite simulation, students learn about the many pieces of a personal budget, such as rent/mortgage, car payments, insurance, savings, entertainment, groceries, and more. As the program describes, students strive to create a balanced budget, and they begin to understand the value of money, and make the connection between hard work, education, and their future earnings. For students in grades 10th - 12th, the curriculum has been abridged to 3 core lessons, combined with a 4.5 hour onsite simulation.

**Source of Data:** Junior Achievement of Arizona (<http://www.jaaz.org>).

- **Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE)** is a program of The University of Arizona’s Take Charge America Institute (TCAI) for Consumer Financial Education and Research to assist schools and community organizations in improving the personal financial capabilities of young adults. Resources available include:
  - Content lesson plans are available at the introductory (targeted at grades 7-9) and advanced (targeted at grades 10-12) levels.
  - A variety of tools have also been developed to assist educators in customizing the FEFE curriculum to their educational environment. Examples of resources include:
    - Active learning tools – activities to motivate students to fully engage in concepts and maximize knowledge retention.
    - Technology - suggestions for enhancing learning through the use of Web 2.0 tools, tablet applications, online games, and videos.
    - Math – math reinforcement worksheets and lessons are available for several topics.
    - Language Arts – each lesson plan includes varied instructional strategies that promote the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

**Source of Data:** University of Arizona, Family Economics and Financial Education (FEFE)  
www.takecharge.today.arizona.edu.

- **Arizona State Board of Education**-Starting fall 2013, Arizona is raising education standards to include financial literacy. Senate Bill 1449, passed in 2013, will require the State Board of Education to add personal finance concepts to school curriculum starting as young as first grade. Students will be taught the concepts of budgeting, saving, investments and credit.

**Source of Data:** SB 1449, Arizona Legislature (azleg.gov).

For youth in college scholarship programs, financial education is often provided as a support service to the students by the scholarship sponsors. For example:

- Armstrong Foundation provides scholarships for youth aging out of foster care. They have also provided financial literacy training.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, 4.23.2013

### ***a) Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?***

**Current Partners**-members of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team

- Arizona's Children Association-Independent Living Skills Training Program
- Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families
- Arizona Community Foundation

### **Potential Partners**

- Junior Achievement of Arizona
- University of Arizona, Family Economics and Financial Education (FEFE)
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative-Financial Education Training and Opportunity Passport Program

### ***b) What capacity can these organizations or institutions bring to your community and to your collaboration? To what extent can they provide support to customize the financial literacy curriculum?***

Opportunities for collaborations with the following organizations will help to build a comprehensive and integrated infrastructure for financial education, matched savings and the Opportunity Passport Program for youth transitioning from foster care ages 16-26.

- Arizona's Children Association-Independent Living Skills Training Program- currently serving youth through contract with ADES-DCYF for Independent Living Skills Training and services.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families-state child welfare agency administering independent living services and has a matched savings program for youth 18 to 21 up to \$1,000.
- Arizona Community Foundation-expertise with community funds and also IDAs.
- Junior Achievement of Arizona- Financial Education programs and resources.

- University of Arizona, Family Economics and Financial Education (FEFE)-Financial Education programs and resources.
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative -Financial Education Training and Opportunity Passport Program-technical assistance and training for financial education, experience of other Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative sites and Opportunity Passport program.

**39. List possible partners for the provision of asset-specific training in the following areas: vehicles, education/training, housing, investments, microenterprise, credit building and health.**

- Arizona’s Children Association-through the Independent Living Skills program
- Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents
- Arizona Commission of Post-Secondary Education
- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation
- Community Colleges
- Arizona State University
- University of Arizona
- Northern Arizona University
- Mentors
- Financial Institutions
- Internships
- Chambers of Commerce
- United Way

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, April 23.2013 and June 12, 2013.

**a) Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?**

**Current partners include:**

- Arizona’s Children Association-Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team
- Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents-Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team
- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation- Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team
- Community Colleges-Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team
- Mentors
  - CASA Program-Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team
  - Arizona’s Children Association-In My Shoes Program- Represented on Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team

**Potential Partners include:**

- Arizona Board of Regents
- Arizona State University
- University of Arizona
- Northern Arizona University
- Financial Institutions
- Chamber s of Commerce



**b) What capacity can these organizations or institutions bring to your community and to your collaboration? To what extent can they provide support to develop customized asset-specific training curricula?**

Opportunities for collaborations with the following organizations will help to build a comprehensive and integrated infrastructure for asset-specific education in the following areas: vehicles, education/training, housing, investments, microenterprise, credit building and health for youth transitioning from foster care ages 16-26.

**40. Describe the current availability of opportunities that exist in the community that could be customized or enhanced to create door openers for young people transitioning from care.**

A survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) generated recommendations for enhancing opportunities for young people transitioning from foster care. Examples of key themes and comments include:

▪ **Overall**

*“Provide everyone involved with information so they can be told what services are available and encouraged to seek those services by everyone involved with them.”*

▪ **Permanence**

*“Youth need to have more input into the policies, programs and services.”*

*“Finding permanent homes for the older foster youth.”*

*“CPS should try to provide the youth with family members who will continue to be support for the youth after 18.”*

*“Simplify the rigorous rules to “stay in the program” after 18.”*

▪ **Education**

*“Again, I am new, but maybe start at an earlier age to try to focus young people on what they might want to do with their lives when they grow up.”*

*“Better education choices for teens that have behavioral issues.”*

*“Making sure teachers know that child is going through the dependency case and that if any problems occur to advise of contacts. “*

*“Get them tutors right away and they should be able to have expended speech therapy sessions etc.”*

*“Tutoring services being more readily available.”*

*“Keep tutors in the forefront. Kids in group homes are with like kids and it is tough to move out of that arena.”*

*“Better tracking of a child's educational standing relative to age and remedies for deficiencies. Right now it's up to the CASA to do it.”*

*“One of the biggest barriers is that kids in foster care change placements so often that they are significantly behind in school by the time they reach adulthood. So doing a better job of keeping kids enrolled in the same school or minimizing the amount of schools they attend would probably be the most helpful.”*

*“Prevention, policy changes, programs and services that value and support keeping this population in school and advancing their education.”*

*“I would increase the opportunities for on the job training with the skilled occupations (e.g., electrician, carpentry, auto mechanic, plumbing, etc.) Many of these youth could have excellent jobs in the future if they were allowed to try some of these skill areas.”*

*“Provide personal incentives to achieve.”*

*“Advocate for IEP upon the onset of the dependency.”*

*“Additional training is needed for CPS Case Managers and group home staff re: the McKinney-Vento Act.”*

*“Take a serious look at their backgrounds, test them, if necessary, to see what is lacking, and engage them in the process.”*

*“Many troubled youth we see in foster care just don't fit into traditional schools, many are very creative and art oriented. Why not look at a different curriculum for them?”*

*“Schools need to develop more ways to effectively educate children with academic challenges rather than seeking ways to deny services. “*

*“Perhaps rather than leave such important aspects all up to CPS case managers, an Educational Consultant should be separate service and manage educational aspect of CPS cases separate from CPS.”*

*“Better schools at the group homes and fewer school changes. CASA's or other educational mentors could help bridge this large gap.”*

*“Do not remove child in upper grades during school year preventing loss of credits if possible. Kids in foster care need to remain in their own schools, same neighborhoods, so that the loss of parents is not as traumatic.”*

*“College tours and have financial aid help with the FAFSA. Educate students of earning potential. Students need support during high school to increase graduation rate.”*

*“Expand scholarships and incorporate transitional assistance from high school to higher learning.”*

*“More career choices explained to youth realistically.”*

*“Assessing youth so all parties know what youth's academic skills are, implementing tutoring and extra services like summer school for youth who are behind, registering youth in community college and notifying youth of where they are and what financial aid is available.”*

*“Provide scholarships for accredited vocational and technical schools & community colleges counsel the youth on finding scholarships, grants, and looking to trade schools, community colleges offer certificates in some areas that can result in employment.”*

#### ▪ **Employment**

*“JFCS has a program that is called Real World development that is a safe place for children that are living on their own to go to get food and learn life skills. There needs to be more programs like this. The young adults are just put out on the street but do not have enough money for food and clothing.”*

*“Internships.”*

*“Provide paid summer internships with companies.”*

*“An internship program with employers to allow the kids to have some real world experience.”*

*“More on the job experience and opportunities to be employed.”*

*“Providing youth with all necessary documentation that they will need to obtain employment.”*

*“Assisting youth with job searches and transportation to and from jobs once they are able to obtain a job.”*

*“I would work with businesses and set up an apprenticeship program. They would pay the youth minimum wage, and train them. The state would subsidize some of that wage (by percentage, e.g., 20%). The apprenticeship program would run 2-4 years depending on the area of expertise.”*

*“Use volunteer work as experience they can list as work experience.”*

#### ▪ **Financial Capability**

*“Training through ADES-AYAP on budgeting, finances, credit cards, checking accounts, etc.”*

*“Begin financial training earlier since some youth never observe how families manage money and the trade-offs necessary for successful management.”*

*“Have youth establish an online test account, take them to the bank to open accounts and help them to make deposits and ask questions of bank personnel.”*

*“Stronger and earlier independent living classes.”*

*“ILS should be teaching them about money management, but I fail to see much of it.”*

*“Life Skills that include all levels of budgeting and finance; use educational models that teach these units in their curricula.”*

*“The personal and clothing allowance should be expanded and youth should be responsible for purchasing their needs with the allowances.”*

▪ **Housing**

*“More housing options for young adults aging out of foster care. Especially options that allow them to live independently with services in place to assist them.”*

*“Accepting alternative living situations and relationships which may not meet all the current rules and regulations.”*

*“We need places like HOME BASE for our kids.”*

*“Find more transitional housing.”*

*“Not sure but many a dormitory option would be good. Also renting a room in a home might work for some.”*

*“Educate on Section 8.”*

*“I think those with problems need building settings to observe others happily doing things right.”*

▪ **Physical and Mental Health**

*“Family planning, birth control, adoption options.”*

*“Need to have a more open approach to the issue of birth control. As FCRB we are advised we can't talk about it. But the kids are out there having sex and we are supposed to close our eyes to it. Increased access to specialized sexual abuse specialists.”*

*“The youth need more early counseling to understand what is happening to them. They need to know: 1) this is not their fault; 2) their parents have issues and neither of them hate them; 3) the community is trying to protect them from physical and mental injury; 4) the foster families are people, just like everyone, and are doing their best to make the youth's life as normal as possible; and 5) their strength of character will get them through this difficult time in their life. Their attitude will make all the difference in the end.”*

*“More in-home therapy services and family therapy.”*

*“Possibly more of an intense trauma therapy.” Children are very afraid of the unknown. Some are afraid to move forward.”*

*“Overall wellness, eating well, nutritional counseling/education, sleep without meds, good therapeutic services.”*

*“Group hikes with adult leaders or even one on one depending on the situation. Group class on eating healthy foods for nutrition and weight control.”*

*“For mental health, guidance in group discussions where they can vent their feelings and know they are not alone might help. They need to know we can only be who we are. At some point that has to be*

*good enough. Too often I think they become discouraged because of society's insistence that rich, famous people are the ones to look up to and to pattern after. They need a new definition for beauty, substance, and wealth. The way things are going with most people struggling, core values and character need to count the most. Art can help here as well. Do not discount self-expression in all of the arts!"*

*"Enrollment in gym programs."*

- **Social Capital**

*"Better recruitment of community mentors, better utilization of extended family members, better education of CASAs and attorneys about available programs."*

*"Advocates that can help with the transition even after permanence is made."*

*"More community involvement."*

*"Create local consortiums for youth activities, and utilize present resources. Share the knowledge."*

*"Teach them social skills and manners, simple manners. they need to know what the world expects of them."*

**Source of Data:** Children's Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

- **Mentors**-In CY 2011, 697 youth receiving Independent Living services were involved with a community advisor or mentor compared to 550 in CY 2010.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES-DCYF) *Child and Family Services Annual Progress Report, Section I Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education Training Voucher Program, June 2012*, pages, 168.

#### **41. List possible partners for the provision of door openers in all outcomes areas (permanence, education, employment, financial capability, housing, physical and mental health, and social capital).**

##### **Permanence**

- **Arizona's Children Association** hopes to build on the experience gained from the Arizona Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project in their work with youth transitioning from foster care. ADES-DCYF implemented the Arizona Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project (FRP) as a national Permanency Innovation Initiative with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau in 2010. The FRP Project Model focused on the integration of two interventions:
  - 3-5-7 Model developed by Darla Henry, MSW, prepares children for the life with a new family, and focuses on activities that help them work through the grief and loss surrounding their biological family.

- Family Finding Model-developed by Kevin Campbell, Seneca Center, uses search tools to locate and contact extended family members to consider as potential resources for the youth.

On January 31, 2013, ADES-DCYF announced the decision to withdraw from participation in the five-year Permanency Innovation Initiative with the Children’s Bureau. *ADES-DCYF said “It couldn’t comply with the rigorous federal requirements to receive the grant money and adequately serve the growing number of Arizona children in foster care.”*

**Source of Data:** Arizona Republic, Arizona drops U. S. foster-care grant: Officials: \$11.5 mill program’s terms too strict: advocates say move is desperate, by Mary K. Reinhart- February 3, 2013. (azcentral.com)

*“We owe it to these kids in care to help them build strong foundations for themselves when their birth parents are unable. Although the funding through this particular grant is no longer available, we have found other ways to continue to provide these services because we believe in this work due to the outcomes that we have seen. We look forward to continuing to work with youth and families with these two models.”Candy Espino, Arizona’s Children Association.*

**Source of Data:** Arizona’s Children Association, Bridging the Gaps in the System: Federal dollars helped AzCA address needs of older children in foster care, Newsletter, Spring and Summer, 2013.

A survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) generated recommendations for enhancing opportunities with door opener partners for young people transitioning from foster care. Examples of key themes and comments include:

- **Overall**

*“Make sure the services are well known to all that are working with the youth.”*

- **Permanence**

*“I wish we started earlier to talk to the kids about their plans for the future. Most do not have motivated families to help them.”*

*“Wrap-around services beginning early in the dependency.”*

*“Casey Family kids seem to do better, CPS should learn what they do differently and add programs or staff to provide similar support and services. We should also address educational and training issues early.”*

*“Continue the experimental Federal Grant in Maricopa County for the Finding Permanent Placements for older hard to place foster children contracted to Arizona’s Children Association.”*

*“Earlier enrollment to YAP, age 14.”*

- **Education**

*“Include faith based schools.”*

*“If a CASA is assigned, educational services can be monitored easily. CASAs are good at coordinating parents, students, and educational entities.”*

*“More tutoring services for youth in care and more programs like Upward Bound.”*

*“Workshops, job fairs, job placement, internships, job shadowing, career fairs. Resume writing assistance, Job Corps applications and visits to a campus.”*

*“Develop partnerships with community colleges and universities in each community to enhance ongoing education for foster children.”*

#### ▪ **Employment**

*“Work with Vocational Rehabilitation and develop OJT's, work study situations, etc. Not everyone wants to go to college or are capable of doing it.”*

*“Possibly tours of different work places. Not just fast food joints or grocery stores. Maybe Home Depot, Wal-Mart, etc. Raise the bar.”*

*“Works project administration and civilian conservation corps type programs to be instituted to promote jobs and civic responsibility.”*

*“Again, get someone like Vocational Rehab who can develop job services for them.”*

*“I don't know if local employers have an involvement in helping these kids. If there is involvement, maybe more needs to be done to get the local communities to reach out.”*

*“Community involvement. Educate our local employers of the positive impact they can make on their community by supporting our youth.”*

*“Internships- Partnerships with local businesses to provide employment opportunities.”*

*“Funding, training of youth run, built managed and future owned small businesses.”*

*“Contract with or build a model youth workforce development program like Goodwill.”*

*“Opportunities for work study programs.”*

The Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team suggested the following potential partners for the provision of door openers in employment:

- Business groups; Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, Ad2 Phoenix (marketing professionals all under 30) and Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN).
- A partnership Florence Crittenton formed with Fry's Food Stores. They held four positions open within their stores to employ youth clients. The youth had to go through all of the same screening procedures that other employee candidates would (application, drug test, two interviews, etc.); however, it gave the youth from Florence Crittenton a competitive edge knowing their applications would get priority consideration over others. Florence Crittenton did have to have open communication with Fry's on the type of coaching clients would need on expected professionalism (showing up on time, appearance, communication, etc.). They set each client up with a "mentor" in the store who would address any issues with them first before going through

the formal write-up process. This helped the youth learn the expectations without feeling threatened if they got written up or lost their job when they made a mistake.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, 4.23.2013.

A survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) generated recommendations for enhancing opportunities with door opener partners for young people transitioning from foster care. Examples of key themes and comments include:

- **Financial Capability**

*“Give foster parents tools to teach youth.”*

- **Housing**

*“Have any interested community members meet with realtors and other interested parties to create local participation.”*

*“Vouchers, subsidies, supervision, section 8, something similar to dorm housing like universities, communal living.”*

- **Physical and Mental Health**

*“Better access to mental health services; timely access to same.”*

*“Possibly more of an intense trauma therapy. Children are very afraid of the unknown. Some are afraid to move forward.”*

*“Provide more behavioral health personnel and ensure they are qualified (certified).”*

*“More counseling services-most kids have been traumatized before removal and also by removal.”*

- **Social Capital**

*“Youth need support. Youth on Their Own has a good model. For youth with children research based parenting programs should be in place. Programs should be based on real life situations. They must mean something in the individual youth's life. Policies should be developed around support of individual growth. Youth need to be included in the development of policy and programs.”*

*“Mentors that had been in foster care who were successful in college or learning a marketable skill.”*

*“Something creative, maybe teaching art classes to younger kids in after school programs.”*

*“Stop isolating kids in systems that remove them from society. Find national models that work. Educate communities how to be inclusive of this population.”*

*“Many of our youth are isolated by circumstance or choice. It would be valuable to get them involved with social activities with different age groups. I believe you could tap into the Big Brother-Big Sister programs and use them as a way to better socialize the youth.”*



*“Present youth with opportunities to participate in life situations faced by non-CPS families and help them develop coping and observational skills.”*

*“Let’s start finding more ways to integrate them into the “real world”. Let’s not keep on keeping them locked up in group homes. They need to meet other kids.”*

*“Support systems - using established, successful programs as models to help in social transitions. I know there are meetings provided through AzCA, but not all kids choose to attend. The Clinic also offers outings, but not all kids choose to attend. Our church offers assistance, but the teens in our home chose not to attend. Summer Camp is offered, but they choose not to attend. They have gone to Young Life. So maybe more groups based on what Young Life does.”*

*“Focus on eliminating bullying and various forms of prejudice: gender preferences, racism, etc.”*

*“More partnerships with communities and business to offer youth hands-on opportunities to experience positive situations that build social capital with guidance on how to leverage what they learn.”*

*“Teen groups such as guardian angels or explorer programs long on action short on preaching.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

## H. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS

### 1. Lesbian, Gay Bisexual or transgender youth

Although there is not very much data available on Arizona foster youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), a number of agencies and organizations are establishing outreach to LGBT youth to insure that their needs are met. For example, one n ten, located in Phoenix, is an agency whose mission is to provide youth with tools to improve self-esteem and acceptance of who they are offering a range of counseling, support services and youth-driven social activities like dances and free social spaces to engage and interact with their peers in a positive environment.

**Source of Data:** one n ten (onenten.org).

### 2. Native American Youth

The Arizona Commission for Indian Affairs provides information and resources for communication and collaboration with Arizona's 22 Tribal governments. This Tribal Liaison model was developed in the spirit of cooperation to strengthen government-to-government relationships between the State and the tribes to ensure that meaningful and timely consultation was taking place with Arizona's Tribal leaders to facilitate better understanding and informed decision making. Executive Order 2006-14 Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes required each Executive Branch agency (such as the Arizona Department of Economic Security) to designate a principle point of contact for tribal issues.

The Intertribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) is also a forum for communication with Tribal Social Service agencies on issues such as youth transitioning from foster care.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Commission for Indian Affairs (azcia.gov).

**Source of Data:** Interview with Diana Yazzie Devine, President/CEO, Native American Connections (www.nativeconnections.org), May 28, 2013.

### 3. Crossover Youth-Dually Adjudicated. Dependent (ADES) and Juvenile Probation (JPO) or Department of Juvenile Corrections (DJJC)

#### Delinquent Youth

In Arizona, delinquent youth determinations are made through the Juvenile Courts in each of the 15 Counties. In Maricopa County, referrals are received by the Maricopa County Juvenile Court for alleged delinquent youth ages 8-17. All youth under the supervision of County Juvenile Probation Offices (JPO) will be released by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. For those youth who are also dependent, ADES-DCYF CPS Specialists work with Juvenile Probation Officers on concurrent planning for the dually adjudicated youth who are eligible to receive services beyond age 18 according to protocols established by counties.

DELINQUENCY STATISTICAL SUMMARY – MARICOPA COUNTY FY 2011								
Juveniles Referred*	Delinquency Petitions **	New Cases Placed on Probation		Detention Admissions	Commitments to ADJC		Adult Prosecutions of Juveniles	
		Standard Probation	Intensive Probation		Re-Awarded	Committed	Direct Files	Remands
18,980	10,425	3472	483	6434	111	328	219	12

**Source of Data:** Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department, FY 2011 Data Book, p.12 Note: \* Referral is used as a term for complaint. \*\* Does not include petitions filed in Adult, Average daily population for Detention =243. Average stay in detention is 13.7 days. Information for other Counties can be found on the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts website. (www.azcourts.gov).

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately 36% of survey respondents lacked sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of coordination of services by Juvenile Probation (JPO) and ADES-DCYF for dual wards.

**Q.9 How effective is the coordination of services by Juvenile Probation (JPO) and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	5.92%	10.65%	24.85%	20.71%	1.78%	36.09%	
<b>Number</b>	10	18	42	35	3	61	169

Examples of comments from survey respondents illustrate strengths and challenges and include:

*“My experience with a chronic runaway helped me understand how futile their efforts can seem sometimes - nevertheless, they provide law enforcement and structure at the juvenile level that would not exist otherwise.”*

*“Lots of cooperation in the best interest of the children they serve. Behavioral health is sometimes a glitch in the coordination of services.”*

*“Best in courts where there is one judge handling both cases.”*

*“Probation has become more of a monitor or surveillance officer as the department no longer seems to provide any services. Parents are expected to provide services through AHCCCS or private insurance. CPS wards are usually placed by CPS and are placed sooner and in less restrictive placements.”*

*“Information sharing (i.e., UA results) is non-existent.”*

*“Depends on the JPO, some better than others.”*

*“More face time between ADJC, ADES-DCYF, & CASAs.”*

*“They are too busy trying to figure out who is going to pay for it and making sure they don't have to that they don't get the services implemented.”*

*“I have been very impressed with juvenile officers and the care they give their clients.”*

*“More updating is needed between JPO and CPS.”*

*“Too often child moves jurisdictions and then JPO drops consequences for the youth.”*

*“At times there is a power struggle on who is managing the child.”*

*“They both support the child and cooperate with each other.”*

*“This area has been a concern for me. JPO does not keep all parties informed. Very little communication.”*

*“As FCRB member, we don't hear from probation officers except if they are mentioned in minute entries. If they write reports to the court, we are not getting copies of those reports.”*

*“More free flow of info needed-one jurisdiction lead needed.”*

*“Usually the two agencies fight over who is going to pay and who is responsible for setting up services.”*

*“Probation also uses CPS to place youth at Canyon State, a very structured residential program that the court has chosen not to contact with because of incidents that happened almost 2 decades ago but will place the child there if the state will pay.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

### **The Arizona CAPSTONE PROJECT: An Interconnected Journey: The Impact of Multiple Systems Partnering for Progress**

Arizona was selected as a participant in the July 2012 Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders through the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. Arizona’s participating team was comprised of multi-disciplinary partners and includes the following individuals:

- Honorable Craig Blakey, Juvenile Court Judge, Maricopa County
- Chad Campbell, Director, Juvenile Justices Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Caroline Lault-Owens, Director, Dependent Children’s Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Stacy Reinstein, Deputy Child Welfare Administrator, Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families
- Beth Rosenberg, Director of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, Children’s Action Alliance
- Dr. Sara Salek, Medical Director of Children’s Services, Division of Behavior Health Services It is important to note since the team convened at Georgetown, Dr. Salek resigned her position with the Division of Behavioral Health. The team is currently working with Dr. Steven Dingle to identify her replacement.
- Katrina Suell, Community Services Administrator, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Jim Lovett, Arizona Department of Education, Title I state Coordinator

The team developed a multi-phased Arizona Capstone Project assessing the infrastructure that exists in the state that was intended to serve as the foundation for the efforts that will be pursued. For Arizona to impact the identified indicators, the strategy is designed to build a solid infrastructure that incorporates an integrated coordination of information sharing, comprehensive gap analysis, and fiscal accountability through financial mapping between all system partners.

### **Crossover Youth Practice Model: Background and Theoretical Framework**

At the national level, Casey Family Programs and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute (CJJR), have partnered since 2007 to address the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These young people, often referred to as “crossover youth,” move between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, or are known to both concurrently.

Based on this cumulative and growing body of knowledge, CJJR has developed a practice model that describes the specific practices that need to be in place within a jurisdiction in order to reduce the number of youth who crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the number of youth entering and reentering care, and the length of stay in out of home care. The Practice Model for Crossover Youth infuses values and standards; evidence-based practices, policies and procedures; and quality assurance processes. It provides a template for how states can immediately impact how they serve crossover youth and rapidly impact outcomes.

The practice model creates a nexus between research and the practice learning from the Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare Integration Breakthrough Series Collaborative. It provides a mechanism whereby agencies will strengthen their organizational structure and implement or improve practices that directly affect the outcomes for crossover youth. This will include but is not limited to the following practices: the creation of a process for identifying crossover youth at the point of crossing over, ensuring that workers are exchanging information in a timely manner, including families in all decision-making aspects of the case, ensuring that foster care bias is not occurring at the point of detention or disposition, and maximizing the services utilized by each system to prevent crossover from occurring.

The following are the overall goals in the Crossover Youth Practice Model:

- A reduction in the number of youth placed in out-of-home care
- A reduction in the use of congregate care
- A reduction in the disproportionate representation of children of color
- A reduction in the number of youth becoming dually-adjudicated

The Crossover Youth Practice Model has been implemented in approximately 50 jurisdictions and provides a structure in which child welfare and juvenile justice work together to better serve those children known to both systems. In Arizona, Maricopa County Juvenile Court is the first site working with CJJR on implementation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model.

**Source of Data:** Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute (CJJR) (<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu>).

**Source of Data:** The State of Arizona CAPSTONE Project: An Interconnected Journey: The Impact of Multiple Systems Partnering for Progress, A Project for Completion of the Requirements of the Certification Program for the Public Sector Leaders Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, October 4, 2012. Interview with Rob Shelley, Program Manager, Court Improvement Program, Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children’s Services Division, May 7, 2013.

Interview with Caroline Lault-Owens, Director Dependent Children’s Services, Arizona Supreme Court Administrative office of the Courts, May 10, 2013.

- **Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC):** In fiscal year (FY) 2010 there were 751 youth committed to ADJC. The percentage of dually involved youth is reflected in the following table.

<b>Youth Committed to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections with Dependency Actions FY 2010</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of Youth</b>
Had ever had a dependency petition filed	24.0%	183
Had been found dependent at some point in their lives	18.1%	136
Were dependent at time of commitment	8.9%	67
Total	100%	751

- **Probation:** In fiscal year (FY) 2010 there were 15,405 youth on probation in Arizona. The percentage of dually involved youth is reflected in the following table.

<b>Youth on Probation with Dependency Actions FY 2010</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of Youth</b>
Had ever had a dependency petition filed	13.0%	1,934
Had been found dependent at some point in their lives	10.0%	1,541
Were dependent during probation	5.0%	772
Total	100%	15405

- **Crime Rates:** In FY10 for every 1000 juveniles in Arizona, 40 received a referral to the juvenile court.

**Source of Data:** The State of Arizona CAPSTONE Project: An Interconnected Journey: The Impact of Multiple Systems Partnering for Progress, A Project for Completion of the, Requirements of the Certification Program for the Public Sector Leaders Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, October 4, 2012.

Interview with Rob Shelley, Program Manager, Court Improvement Program, Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children’s Services Division, May 7, 2013.

Interview with Caroline Lault-Owens, Director Dependent Children’s Services, Arizona Supreme Court Administrative office of the Courts, May 10, 2013.

### **Collaborative Protocol Between Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections**

Joint Protocol developed by ADES-DCYF and ADJC in 2013 outlines a collaborative process to ensure dually involved youth committed to ADJC are able to transition smoothly into the community. All youth committed to ADJC will be released by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. For those youth who are also dependent, ADES-DCYF works with ADJC on concurrent planning for the dually adjudicated youth who are eligible to receive services beyond age 18. Included in the protocol are key responsibilities and timelines for agency staff from ADJC and ADES-DCYF and focus on three areas:

- Referring youth in ADJC care (secure or community) to CPS for Assessment of Dependency
- Assessing Community Placement Needs
- Assessing Therapeutic Needs (including placement)

**Source of Data:** Collaborative Protocol 2013 between the Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC).

According to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, approximately 18% (100) of the total population of committed youth (as of 3.25.2013) (569) were dual wards (adjudicated both dependent and delinquent). Of these youth 63 or 20% were in secure care and 37 or 14.7% were on parole in a community setting.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS POPULATION (2013)			
	Secure Care	Parole	Total
Dual Wards	63 (20.0%)	37 (14.7%)	100.00 (17.6)
Not a Dual ward	253 (80.1%)	216 (85.4%)	469 (82.4%)
Total	316	253	569

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Research and Analysis Report, Communication with Katrina Suell, 3.25.2013.

Key findings from a survey of attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB) include:

- Approximately half of the survey respondents lacked sufficient information to rate the effectiveness of coordination of services by ADJC and ADES-DCYF for dual wards.

**Q. 10 How effective is the coordination of services by ADJC and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
Percent	2.96%	13.02%	18.93%	13.61%	1.18%	50.30%	
Number	5	22	32	23	2	85	169

Examples of comments from survey respondents include:

*“Judges don't read the CASA court report before a delinquency hearing. Not good.”*

*“There is a great load placed on case managers. Things work better when they coordinate the team as a team.”*

*“I think this saves a lot of duplication!”*

*“Often CPS will let ADJC take total control of the child, especially when it comes to providing such things as money, clothes and even contact.”*

*“It's always about money and who's going to pay.”*

*“I think they both support the kids and share info.”*

*“As FCRB member, I don't know. We are not informed in any reports we receive about their activities or how they are coordinated.”*

*“DES needs to do more to make sure programs are in place prior to the child's release. Sometimes it appears that DES waits until the last minute to begin looking for services. At that point they just need anything rather than the right program.”*

**Source of Data:** Children’s Action Alliance. Survey of 171 stakeholders with legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including attorneys, judges, commissioners, social workers (assisting attorneys), Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and Foster Care Review Board Members (FCRB), May-June 2013.

#### **4. Youth with Developmental Disabilities**

Youth with disabilities placed in foster care have unique needs, especially facing transition to living on their own. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures youth with disabilities receive individualized supports and services to successfully complete high school and transition to postsecondary education, employment and adult life. The Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Developmental Disabilities (ADES-DDD) and Division for Children, Youth and Families are working to coordinate Chafee programs with disability services at the state level.

Approximately 200 older youth aged 16-18 with developmental disabilities are in ADES-DCYF foster care. Specialized DDD support coordinators team with CPS Specialists co-located in DES offices to serve these youth. The ADES Divisions of DCYF and DDD are collaborating to maximize opportunities and services for those young persons with disabilities who have the potential to work and live independently. In the past, programs have excluded youth with developmental disabilities from participation. These youth are working with DES-DDD support coordinators, Arizona Young Adult Program CPS Specialists and AzCA Independent Living staff on transition plans and services.

ADES-DDD, in collaboration with CPS, launched a special initiative for transitional services including contracts to provide job readiness, employment and self-advocacy skills for this population in addition to the services of ADES vocational rehabilitation counselors.

**Creating a “Picture of Life”**, a key collaboration with the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), was launched in 2012 as a statewide project, to improve outcomes for foster youth with developmental disabilities (DD). The goal of the project is to prepare youth with DD who are about to exit foster care to exercise choice, promote the use of informal and community supports and to make knowledgeable decisions on community living and work. In doing so, the project intends to improve transition outcomes for these youth, which include the following desired outcomes: a safe and stable home, self-determination and self-advocacy, framing a vision for their future, a support system to help with decision making, an ongoing circle of natural/informal support, and employment exploration and opportunities. Ultimately, this model project will help to improve services for individuals with DD exiting foster care in Arizona by offering a mechanism for youth to exercise meaningful choice about their living arrangements, work life, social networks and services.

The vision is for young people with DD in foster care moving to adult living will be knowledgeable about the full range of choices available to them for successful adult living and will be able to exercise that choice as part of a person-centered planning (PCP) process incorporating informal support and community networks as well as paid service providers. Youth with DD in Arizona aging out of foster care have had no special planning to prepare for adult life and typically remained in the same funded group home or foster home setting in which they had lived while in foster care. There has been no organized emphasis on transition planning for this vulnerable population; and with current funding issues, many of these youth may no longer have housing or other supports once they turn 21.



**Creating a “Picture of a Life”** has four major components:

- Grow the cadre of Person-Centered Planning facilitators in order to build system capacity and expertise in PCP for foster youth with DD by training a minimum of 10 new facilitators and providing support to new and continuing facilitators from Year 1 throughout the planning process.
- Develop and support implementation of person-centered plans (PCP) for youth with DD in foster care where their preferences are elicited and informal supports are utilized. Develop PCPs for 10 new foster youth with DD ages 16-18. DDD will identify up to 15 targeted youth with preference to youth who are not supported by ALTCS funding as they are at risk of losing residential support from DES after the age of 21. Follow-up on plan implementation and update PCPs with Year 1 cohort of 10 foster youth with DD.
- Support youth to attend self-advocacy and self-determination trainings throughout AZ to gain the necessary skills and knowledge to lead successful adult lives.
- Expand and implement project evaluation which assesses satisfaction with the PCP process and PCP outcomes of participating youth and facilitators, as well as assessing transition outcomes for Year 1 cohort.

**Creating a “Picture of a Life”** receives primary funding from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

ADES-DDD is working with the ASU School of Social Work for research and curriculum development for professionals.

**Source of Data:** University of Arizona, Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities ([www.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/person-centered-initiative](http://www.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/person-centered-initiative)).

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security- Division of Developmental Disabilities (ADES-DDD) Interview with Kim Simmons, Policy and Training Administrator, 5.16.2013.

## **5. Youth with Immigration Issues**

Youth in foster care who were not born in the United States or naturalized citizens or legal residents face additional challenges transitioning from foster care. A young person without proper immigration status can be ineligible for social services, health and mental health services, housing, education programs, scholarships, student loans and employment or face consequences such as deportation.

ADES-DCYF, attorneys, courts, service providers and advocates have been successful securing legal assistance to help youth with immigration issues, especially while they are in the custody and care of ADES-DCYF and under the age of 18 although they are eligible to apply up until 21 for many options. This assistance usually involves reviewing their case and assistance with the application process for one of several types of Visas depending upon the facts in their situation. Examples of Visas attorneys assist youth transitioning from foster care with include:

- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa**-when it is not in the best interest for a young person to return to their home country and cannot be reunited with parents. ADES-DCYF can certify abuse.
- **U Visa**-immigrant victims of crimes who cooperate with law enforcement

- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition**-Abused spouses and children (under 21) of U.S. Citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- **Relative Petition**-US Citizen or legal resident sponsors immigrant spouse, child or parent.
- **Child Arrival Deferred Action Program**-came to the U.S. while under the age of sixteen, are under 31 years of age as of June 15, 2012 and are currently in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a GED, or have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or armed forces.

Eligibility for the Visa programs can be extremely complex and the process lengthy. Immigration attorneys recommend a full evaluation of options for the client. Examples of resources with expertise in this area:

- Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Tucson, AZ
- Arizona State University College of Law, Immigration Law and Policy Clinic
- ASISTA ([www.assistahelp.org](http://www.assistahelp.org))
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center ([www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org))
- Battered Immigrant Women Project ([www.crh.arizona.edu](http://www.crh.arizona.edu))
- US Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) website ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov))

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## Appendix 1: Legal Advocacy Survey

A survey was administered online using SurveyMonkey.com for stakeholders with various legal advocacy perspectives from their experiences working with older youth transitioning from foster care including:

- Attorneys
- Social Workers working in Maricopa County Public Advocate Offices
- Guardians at Litem
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Foster Care Review Board Members
- Judges
- Commissioners

Potential survey respondents were invited to participate in the survey by directors of their programs or agencies via email. Survey participants were asked for input on the effectiveness of policies, programs, services and supports in helping youth successfully transition from foster care, barriers and recommendations to expand opportunities for youth in the future. Responses were received from 171 participants.

### Q.1 What is your role in Legal Advocacy for Youth?

Answered: 171 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Judge	5.85% 10
Commissioner	1.75% 3
Attorney representing clients in Juvenile Court	7.02% 12
Guardian Ad Litem representing clients in Juvenile Court	5.26% 9
Court Appointed Special Advocate	29.82% 51
Foster Care Review Board Member	40.94% 70
Social Worker-Office of Legal Advocate	5.85% 10
Other, please specify: _____	3.51% 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>

**Q.2 How effective are ADES-DCYF specialized case management staff for young adults (Arizona Young Adult Program)?**

Answered: 171 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.34%</b>	<b>19.30%</b>	<b>38.01%</b>	<b>22.22%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>18.13%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	33	65	38	0	31	171

**Q.3 How effective are ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.37%</b>	<b>7.69%</b>	<b>11.83%</b>	<b>10.65%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>67.46%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	13	20	18	0	114	169

**Q.4 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>1.78%</b>	<b>14.79%</b>	<b>23.67%</b>	<b>25.44%</b>	<b>3.55%</b>	<b>30.77%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	3	25	40	43	6	52	169

**Q.5 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0.60%</b>	<b>12.50%</b>	<b>13.69%</b>	<b>16.07%</b>	<b>2.38%</b>	<b>54.76%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	1	21	23	27	4	92	168

**Q.6 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>8.88%</b>	<b>9.47%</b>	<b>14.20%</b>	<b>4.14%</b>	<b>62.72%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	1	15	16	24	7	106	169

**Q.7 How effective are Foster Care Review Boards?**

Answered: 170 Skipped: 1

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>9.41%</b>	<b>14.71%</b>	<b>21.18%</b>	<b>37.06%</b>	<b>12.35%</b>	<b>5.29%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	16	25	36	63	21	9	170

**Q.8 How effective are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.37%</b>	<b>5.33%</b>	<b>12.43%</b>	<b>53.25%</b>	<b>23.08%</b>	<b>3.55%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	9	21	90	39	6	169

**Q.9 How effective is the coordination of services by Juvenile Probation (JPO) and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>5.92%</b>	<b>10.65%</b>	<b>24.85%</b>	<b>20.71%</b>	<b>1.78%</b>	<b>36.09%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	10	18	42	35	3	61	169

**Q. 10 How effective is the coordination of services by ADJC and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.96%</b>	<b>13.02%</b>	<b>18.93%</b>	<b>13.61%</b>	<b>1.18%</b>	<b>50.30%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	5	22	32	23	2	85	169

**Q.11 How effective is Independent Living Skills Training?**

Answered: 166 Skipped: 5

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>3.01%</b>	<b>20.48%</b>	<b>31.93%</b>	<b>21.08%</b>	<b>4.22%</b>	<b>19.28%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	5	34	53	35	7	32	166

**Q.12 How effective is the legal representation of Youth in Dependency Proceedings?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.98%</b>	<b>13.69%</b>	<b>20.24%</b>	<b>35.12%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>20.83%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	5	23	34	59	12	35	168

**Q. 13 How effective are college scholarships for youth in foster care?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>8.33%</b>	<b>13.10%</b>	<b>21.43%</b>	<b>7.74%</b>	<b>48.21%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	2	14	22	36	13	81	168

**Q.14 How effective are Residential Treatment Centers?**

Answered: 170 Skipped: 1

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>1.76%</b>	<b>8.24%</b>	<b>37.65%</b>	<b>26.47%</b>	<b>3.53%</b>	<b>22.35%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	3	14	64	45	6	38	170

**Q.15 How effective are Group Homes?**

Answered: 167 Skipped:

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>3.59%</b>	<b>22.75%</b>	<b>33.53%</b>	<b>25.75%</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>13.17%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	6	38	56	43	2	22	167

**Q.16 How effective are Foster Homes?**

Answered: 165 Skipped:

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>0.61%</b> 1	<b>3.64%</b> 6	<b>23.03%</b> 38	<b>63.03%</b> 104	<b>6.06%</b> 10	<b>3.64%</b> 6	165

**Q.17 How effective are reports and information provided to participants to inform decisions?**

Answered: 165 Skipped: 6

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>3.03%</b> 5	<b>10.91%</b> 18	<b>35.15%</b> 58	<b>36.97%</b> 61	<b>8.48%</b> 14	<b>5.45%</b> 9	165

**Q.18 How effective are efforts to include the youth in the decision making process?**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 3

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>6.55%</b> 11	<b>16.07%</b> 27	<b>29.76%</b> 50	<b>26.79%</b> 45	<b>7.74%</b> 13	<b>13.10%</b> 22	168

**Q.19 How effective are education services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>4.14%</b> 7	<b>15.38%</b> 26	<b>29.59%</b> 50	<b>30.18%</b> 51	<b>3.55%</b> 6	<b>17.16%</b> 29	169

**Q.20 How effective are job training and employment services?**

Answered: 166 Skipped: 5

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>6.02%</b> 10	<b>15.06%</b> 25	<b>20.48%</b> 34	<b>15.06%</b> 25	<b>1.81%</b> 3	<b>41.57%</b> 69	166

**Q.21 How effective are health care services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>0%</b> 0	<b>7.69%</b> 13	<b>21.30%</b> 36	<b>53.85%</b> 91	<b>8.28%</b> 14	<b>8.88%</b> 15	169

**Q.22 How effective are mental health services?**

Answered: 167 Skipped: 4

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>3.59%</b> 6	<b>26.35%</b> 44	<b>31.14%</b> 52	<b>28.14%</b> 47	<b>2.40%</b> 4	<b>8.38%</b> 14	167

**Q.23 How effective are housing services?**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>3.55%</b> 6	<b>13.02%</b> 22	<b>23.08%</b> 39	<b>17.75%</b> 30	<b>0.59%</b> 1	<b>42.01%</b> 71	169

## Q.24 What barriers prevent the policies, services and supports from being more effective?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 35

### Comments

- As a CASA I have not had cases 16+ on my caseloads.
- Funding most of all; cooperation and coordination with case workers and providers with attorneys and gals. Ineffectiveness, lack of timeliness and lack of cooperation from AG's office and/or case workers. Overworked and underpaid caseworkers and revolving door caseworkers
- Lack of financial resources to provide complete services to children and families.
- AHCCCS.
- Ineffective case managers, case managers who are unaware of all available resources and supports themselves.
- Lack of funding
- Coordination of services between Probation and ADES, in terms of who is spending the money
- Lack of appropriate communication, including knowing who to contact when problems arise.
- Lack of appropriate communication, including knowing who to contact when problems arise.
- Awareness. Access. Information. Funding.
- Case Manager caseloads way too high.
- Volume of youth needing services -- lack of employees to provide service
- Inadequate mental health service providers
- Based on recent numbers, in Pima County there are 4,000 homeless youth. Many of the children before me are "on the run" at the time that they age out of Juvenile Court...trying to pinpoint why they are choosing to run instead of taking advantage of services is critical...and then getting them re-involved once the dependency is dismissed and they are age 18 or older is a significant challenge.
- Case managers seem disinterested in helping youth and do not provide the support needed or information necessary in order to help the teens when they need it.
- Information silos. Decisions made without all affected parties present. Poor communication. Lack of coordinated resources for older kids.
- Paperwork too few case managers turnover in employees poor salaries
- The services are not sufficiently integrated... communication and coordination between all parties are somewhat fractured.
- Policies sometimes are argued even when it makes no sense. Policies prevent needed services from being in place because of financial or resource issues. Too often case managers change and there is no continuity. Or a substitute case manager is sent to court who is not familiar with the case.
- Lack of communication between DES/behavioral health and parents. Lack of follow-up by case managers in assuring effective, efficient services for the children.
- Continuing cooperation and communication between the parties.
- DCYF management spending money on more task forces, etc. rather than on the youth.
- Logistics are the biggest problem. If a girl is at a group home in east Scottsdale, it is difficult to get her to mental health services in Mesa and then to DBT in central Phoenix. I have been looking for alternative schools but they are spread out all across the Valley that my foster child would have to take several buses to get there.
- Most professionals assigned to teens have such large caseloads that they cannot spend the time to become effective. Additional, committed people.
- Lack of a good mental health system and current shortage of CPS workers. Lack of support to foster care parents, parents, etc. regarding support services, especially mental health.
- Lack of sufficient CPS staff and resources for CWS in Arizona. Too much redundancy in information to maintain all of the standalone systems for IEP's (Education), Mental Health Regional Behavioral Health, CHILDS (CPS), Health Care Systems for the different providers, FCRB Systems, etc.
- Limited caseworker availability in most cases. Participants claim many problems contacting and communicating with their caseworkers.
- Changing the policy for parents to have the youth back when they are working their case plan and still do not have a means of steady income, reliable transportation, and stable home environment. Cases are still going on far too long.

- Low funding of all services, low skill (Masters level) of behavioral health therapists.
- When I was a foster mom, it was frustrating to me to have to deal with the systems requirements and there was no reciprocity... no one answering our questions or working on our schedule.
- Parents not participating in process and no accountability.
- Lack of communications between all parties.
- There are many good workers out there, but if a child/family has a case worker who is overloaded or who is not at all insightful or helpful it is detrimental to that family and the outcome.
- Availability.
- CPS does not disclose information to GAL.
- Lack of a good strong quality assurance with monitoring for outcomes and standards. LACKS A COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH CONNECTS TO ALL SERVICES. Case workers have too many kids on their case load. High turnover of case workers doesn't allow for the formation of relationship needed.
- Financial barriers.
- Overworked attorneys and case managers. Inadequate funding for counseling and other wrap-around services for juveniles with mental health challenges. Efficiency.
- I think one of the biggest problems is lack of information being provided to youth about the services available to them. I think some case managers, CASAs, and legal advocates do a great job, while others do not. It really depends on the quality of the team for each child.
- Lack of understanding, lucrative prison system, political system that supports detention instead of prevention. Case management that cannot give attention and time to the issues affecting the individual child.
- Input from all parties in decision making and taking a stand for what is best for the child, not process decision or giving what the child wants.
- Court hearings due to parent's objections to decisions.
- Not enough case managers. We often create our own barriers which seem to prevent the growth of the foster children in foster care. The counselors need better training before they start. They need to be proactive in identifying problems and getting the solution going. I would recommend you get a company (like a collection agency) to track down delinquent parents and increase the monthly fees parents must pay while their child is in foster care or when parental rights are severed.
- Economic resources that will allow more personnel to be hired; burn-out of existing paid employees underfunding by State Legislature.

**Q.25 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of permanence?**

Answered: 112 Skipped: 59

**Comments**

- More public and private funding; including minors in decision making in terms of services, placement, access to parents and siblings. Better communication and working as team. Provide and compensate professional for needed services.
- Advertising perhaps for investors, or creating a website for investors to tax exempt donations to a particular child of program anonymously.
- Resolve the differences about spending. Get the best, most effective service in effect without worrying about when it can be done or who will pay for it. Also, have more shelter facilities created.
- Fund CPS for more caseworkers.
- Better of match of children to appropriate placements - youth should not be considered "bed space" Better-more standard licensing of foster homes. Perhaps the DES needs to take this over again as the present results of placement and permanence have widely scattered results.
- Really evaluating the efficacy of group homes...recruiting families interested in adopting teens.
- Older kids need to be involved in the planning of their future from now to adulthood and beyond. We need to do a better job of marshaling resources and holding all responsible entities accountable for their roles in helping these kids.
- Faster turnaround in court proceedings, more judges, providing the appropriate services at the beginning of the case instead of 6 months later will move more cases toward permanence sooner.



- Better investigation by CPS to determine relative placements. Increased coordination among CPS, parents, the children's schools and behavioral health to make the permanency plan a reality as opposed to a desire.
- Start the ILS process earlier for the youth -- increase the YAP case managers and ILS coaches who work with them. Improve the group homes. Don't mix parenting teens with other teens dealing with mental health issues. Provide better training for staff at the group homes so that they can act as tutors and help the girls do their homework. Above all, don't set appointments for struggling students during the school day so that they end up missing classes. If the therapist cannot see them after 3:00 pm, then find another therapist who can. Professional staff are like a revolving door as the teens seldom have someone that works consistently on a long term basis.
- More residential treatment centers.
- More integration between all of the different components to create a seamless CWS system.
- Have parents do counseling with children earlier in the case plan should be mandatory if case plan is reunification this way we can see if parent is capable of parenting. I don't know what aspect of "permanence" you mean. Something around the decisions to be made when a teen is in care and you know they're not going to be adoptable if parent's rights are severed... is the kid better off at home or not?
- Youth, parents, and guardian being held accountable.
- That return to Parent is always in the best interest...sometimes, especially in repeat cases it's just taking up resources to give the parents services that will never be successfully met...mental health issues are the biggest need.
- It all depends on the youth's openness, willingness, etc.
- Involve all family.
- I do not know enough about the process to answer.
- Make sure the services are well known to all that are working with the youth.
- An FCRB member should consider attending permanency hearings - at a minimum. This might make the judges take the FCRB recommendations more seriously. CASAs should receive additional training on the legal process.
- Efficiency.
- More housing options for young adults aging out of foster care. Especially options that allow them to live independently with services in place to assist them.
- Prevention. Support for adoptive parents.
- Caseworkers having the time to be involved in the cases.
- We need to recognize that children of abusive parents need intense therapy to improve their self-esteem and self-image.
- The youth need more early counseling to understand what is happening to them. They need to know: 1) this is not their fault; 2) their parents have issues and neither of them hate them; 3) the community is trying to protect them from physical and mental injury; 4) the foster families are people, just like everyone, and are doing their best to make the youth's life as normal as possible; and 5) their strength of character will get them through this difficult time in their life. Their attitude will make all the difference in the end.
- Ensure home studies are thorough and completed in timely manner; provide services to youth and parents quickly, including behavioral health and neurological services.
- Earlier intervention.
- Begin them quicker, pay staff enough that there is not high turnover, and engage youth in decision making
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Management, funding.
- Set up stricter qualifications for foster parents in the area of financial responsibility. (Use a reasonable credit rating as part of criteria for selection.) Be specific on Number of beds and rooms in homes required. Require medical Dr. reports prior to finalizing a permanent home.
- I wish we started earlier to talk to the kids about their plans for the future. Most do not have motivated families to help them. Family planning, birth control, adoption options.
- Re-evaluation of foster homes (elimination of professional foster homes), placement in adoptive foster homes whenever possible.
- Hold parents to a shorter, stricter time frame to make changes to allow for quicker transition from foster care to permanence for children in care. 2-3 years is a long time for children to wait for their parents to get their lives in order.
- When a judge court approves case plan of APPLA with independent services, at that very moment forms should be present, signed and sent forward to Arizona's Children Association to begin the process.

- Follow policy. Be accountable! Work as a team, it makes it easier for everyone involved. Really go for the best interest of the child. Stop protecting CPS and hiding their mistakes for "confidentiality". Information needs to go out to improve placement homes and timely decisions so kids don't languish in care while the adults are too busy. Respect to placement, volunteers, and all team members.
- Again, I am new, but maybe start @ an earlier age to try to focus young people on what they might want to do with their lives when they grow up.
- Agencies need to hire more personnel or not accept cases they cannot handle properly. Have better training. Sometimes it takes months to get a child active in a program.
- More money and more services that is effective.
- Larger budget careful oversight.
- Support the foster family; make sure the reason to move a child is valid. DES is not capable of being a family to youth help youth establish what it means to live in a family setting explain the role of being a family member.

**Q.26 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of education?**

Answered: 96 Skipped:

**Comments**

- Of course more funding; easier access to IEP and specialized education for children of abuse and neglect; extra tutoring for children who are behind academically due to their backgrounds, culture, language and being bounced around in the system.
- Maintain school enrollment in original schools without regard to out-of home placement.
- Things happen slowly with the burden of documentation when a child is waiting. Perhaps there could be provisions for allowable and professional shortcuts when absolutely necessary.
- Ensure that every child in care until age 18 is enrolled in school and actually attending. Arrange for tutors for these kids, as they usually need to get caught up.
- More attention to the behavioral needs of the youth. Consider some trauma centered approaches in developing the education plan. Most of these kids can learn - but have not developed consistent learning strategies to succeed. Improve system - (create preference?) to determine whether these youth may qualify for educational accommodations.
- If I knew the answer to this question I'd write a book and be rich.
- More coordination with school districts re the special services these kids have -- lobbying for more \$\$ for public schools.
- Make information regarding education opportunities readily available to the youth, foster placement and CASAs.
- We need to have education representatives at the table to offer up what is available to address education deficits, to provide continuity and to make sure that we don't waste valuable time.
- Alternative high schools, credits for internships, internships that turn into entry level positions.
- Coordinate with the school districts to convince them to allow more of the DES and/or JV kids into the public schools. Too many are kicked out with no place to go resulting in drop outs or on line (not very effective) and charter schools (for "troubled" kids).
- Less frequent movements of the children so that education time and credits are not lost. Suggest a child's primary educator be involved in the decision making process.
- There needs to be someone that works more closely with the child at least once a week to check on their homework, discuss future plans, help the student explore possibilities, and experience success in the learning environment.
- Include faith based schools.
- The service is good now.
- More funding from Arizona.
- Making sure teachers know that child is going through the dependency case and that if any problems occur to advise of contacts. Get them tutors right away and they should be able to have expended speech therapy sessions etc.
- Better tracking of a child's educational standing relative to age & remedies for deficiencies. Right now it's up to the CASA to do it. Tutoring services being more readily available.

- Youth being responsible.
- Assisting/teaching youths with on-line schooling, there are kids who don't know how to use a computer.
- Keep tutors in the forefront. kids in group homes are with like kids and it's tough to move out of that arena.
- Advocate for IEP upon the onset of the dependency.
- Additional training is needed for CPS CMs and group home staff re: the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Provide more financial support.
- One of the biggest barriers is that kids in foster care change placements so often that they are significantly behind in school by the time they reach adulthood. So doing a better job of keeping kids enrolled in the same school or minimizing the amount of schools they attend would probably be the most helpful.
- Prevention, policy changes, programs and services that value and support keeping this population in school and advancing their education.
- Tutors.
- Improve their self-esteem and self-image and just watch what can happen.
- I would increase the opportunities for on the job training with the skilled occupations (e.g., electrician, carpentry, auto mechanic, plumbing, etc.). Many of these youth could have excellent jobs in the future if they were allowed to try some of these skill areas.
- Provide tutoring to help with graduation from high school
- Provide personal incentive to achieve.
- Take a serious look at their backgrounds, test them, if necessary, to see what is lacking, and engage them in the process.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Management and funding.
- If a CASA is assigned, educational services can be monitored easily. CASAs are good at coordinating parents, students, and educational entities.
- More intensive tutoring needs to be done for the youth (early in their dependencies not after several mos. in the system).
- Many troubled youth we see in foster care just don't fit into traditional schools, many are very creative and art oriented. Why not look at a different curriculum for them?
- Schools need to develop more ways to effectively educate children with academic challenges rather than seeking ways to deny services.
- Perhaps rather than leave such important aspects all up to CPS case managers, an Educational Consultant should be separate service and manage educational aspect of CPS cases separate from CPS thumb...
- Teamwork, kids needs first, communication.
- Do not remove child in upper grades during school year preventing loss of credits if possible.
- More individualized.
- More school involvement.
- College tours have financial aid help with the FAFSA. Educate students of earning potential. Students need support during high school to increase grad rate.
- Not sure.
- Work with Vocational Rehabilitation and develop OJT's, work study situations etc. Not everyone wants to go to college or is capable of doing it.
- Money, offer more programs, cut back the paperwork.
- There should be more flexibility in credits for graduation. These kids miss a lot of school. They should be able to stay where they are after 18 until they graduate high school.

**Q.27 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of employment?**

Answered: 95 Skipped: 76

**Comments**

- Job training; community involvement to offer access to summer jobs for youth in foster care. Adequate resourcing and support for life skills training in order to mitigate the effects of abuse, neglect, poor education and poverty.
- Provide career counseling that partners with psychological counseling.

- Developing daily living skills, which include searching for employment, are vital to their post-18 lives. Is there a way to provide them "seniority" when applying, such as the status given to Vets?
- Higher quality trade/vocational schools. Not all youth follow academic paths.
- The City and County have youth employment programs...coordination amongst the community; how to interview; how to fill out an application; what to wear to an interview; have "interview" clothes available, etc.
- The job training was anemic at best and not relevant for the youth I worked with. It needs to be responsive to the individual needs of the youth involved.
- We need to work on coordinated education/employment plans for kids to work on regardless of where there are in our systems.
- Tax incentives for employers that hire youth that have been or are in foster care.
- Coordinate with employers who are willing to provide skills training and employment opportunities.
- Juvenile Justice (Probation) could perhaps share its expertise in this area with CPS, and vice versa.
- The juvenile needs to be given first-hand experience at various employment possibilities and insight to people that are currently in those positions.
- Program like COYOTE that is strictly for foster care children. This would provide jobs to foster care teenagers.
- Find a way to steer kids away from getting a GED and towards pursuing a high school diploma instead. Closer tie-in for advanced training beyond high school.
- Technical schools.
- Possibly tours of different work places. Not just fast food joints or grocery stores. Maybe Home Depot, Wal-Mart, etc. Raise the bar.
- An internship program with employers to allow the kids to have some real world experience.
- More on the job experience and opportunities to be employed.
- Training.
- Providing youth with all necessary documentation that they will need to obtain employment. Assisting youth with job searches and transportation to and from jobs once they are able to obtain a job.
- Policies, programs and services that value and support work opportunities for this population. Training programs, specialized caseloads that focus on job development, training and placement.
- Partnerships with businesses that will work with youth at their level of ability.
- They could intern at a job they think they might like doing the most basic tasks and get a feel for work ethic and work standards in that field.
- Mentors from the business world.
- Improve their self-esteem and self-image and just watch what can happen. I would work with businesses and set up an apprenticeship program. They would pay the youth minimum wage, and train them. The state would subsidize some of that wage (by percentage, e.g., 20%). The apprenticeship program would run 2-4 years depending on the area of expertise.
- Provide paid summer internships with companies; provide scholarships for accredited vocational and technical schools & community colleges.
- Show long term life benefit of gainful employment by having peer presentations of successful graduates.
- A strong educational background - don't send them out to fail, encourage them to sign voluntary agreement after 18.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Finances and opportunities.
- Enlist the help of community members, educational personnel, and CASAs who can coordinate such activities.
- How about internships?
- Something creative, maybe teaching art classes to younger kids in after school programs.
- Program guaranteeing entry level jobs at age 17 or completed of GED/HS graduation. Then coupling that with a mentor and opportunities for advancement.
- Stronger emphasis on vocational training in the schools for those children who are unable or unwilling to complete HS or go to College.
- Transportation is usually the problem for foster parents. A transportation service could be accessible separate from under CPS thumb.
- Start earlier than 6 months prior to turning 18.
- Apprenticing and more placements.

- Better and more funding.
- Workshops, job fairs, job placement, internships, job shadowing, career fairs. Resume writing assistance, job corps applications & visits to a campus.
- Use volunteer work as experience they can list as work experience.
- Works project administration and civilian conservation corps type programs to be instituted to promote jobs and civic responsibility.
- Again, get someone like Voc Rehab who can develop job services for them.
- Offer more job training programs.
- There should be better transitioning planning.
- Help them get jobs, teach them skills.
- Establish mentor programs that ensure employment; this can start as early as junior year in high school.

**Q.28 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of housing?**

Answered: 65 Skipped: 106

**Comments**

- Eliminate barriers to services such a prior convictions or use of illegal not directly related to public safety.
- I don't know.
- We need more shelter facilities immediately. Shelter beds allow us all to "buy" some time when working with kids.
- Create assisted living type facilities/apartments for youth which would have co-located services.
- Allowed to have section 8 housing.
- More foster families!!!!
- If this question is directed to when a child ages out of the YAP, better communication by the DES worker and the juvenile.
- More funding.
- Young Adult programs must include housing management.
- More transitional housing is needed so they have somewhere to go to get on their feet.
- Provide more financial support.
- There need to be more options for housing for young adults.
- Focus not only on adult reentry. Create resources for kids.
- Perhaps group situations which are monitored, creating a young family as it were, but with oversight by more seasoned adults.
- How about group homes throughout the valley for young adults that have aged out. They could pay rent, etc. when they start working.
- No comment.
- I would increase the number of group homes in each community. We have a limited number of foster families and the group home would give each community more flexibility with those youth removed from their homes.
- Allow youth who comply with program to make choices based on preferences and have clear consequences for rule infractions.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Have any interested community members meet with realtors, and other interested parties to create local participation.
- Develop transitional housing for youth 18+ who are leaving foster care but have limited job skills.
- Regular training for foster parents.
- A group home type apartment setting for youth seeking the independence route.
- Recruit more foster placements.
- Publicity, greater reimbursement.
- Vouchers, subsidies, supervision, section 8, something similar to dorm housing like universities, communal living.
- More group homes available, a good orphanage unit really could be a good thing, allowing children to be together.
- We need places like HomeBase for our kids.

- Find more transitional housing.
- There should be housing available in safer neighborhoods, away from drugs.
- Group homes for teens to grown as adults and be more independent.
- More than just group home options ... more foster homes and more residential treatment options.
- More choices.
- Definitely more group homes. Many of these kids will still not be mature enough to help themselves even when they turn 21. They need some kind of supportive housing.
- Increased funding and a true determination of need.
- Not sure.
- Community involvement/education.
- Youth need to have more input into the policies, programs and services. More kids need to be placed into established family homes where ONE child or siblings are introduced to a stable environment. Not dropped into an uncaring rule run holding atmosphere.
- Need more low or no cost housing.
- Group homes need to have better policies in place for teens who cause problems for others in the home.
- Housing should be designed around the abilities of the youth in such a way that the most limited youth are able to experience what the more advanced youth can do - example. Violent youth should be separated from the most vulnerable populations.
- Communication and funding.
- Educate on section 8.

**Q.29 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of legal advocacy?**

Answered: 79 Skipped: 92

**Comments**

- Increase the compensation paid to attorneys so committed professional can financially continue to practice in this area of the law.
- Case managers being required to inform the GAL of important developments.
- If such a thing were possible, it would be good if CASA work could be credited towards a career or academic goal (example: continuing education credit or a work study). The incentive may attract more good people.
- More training, including written materials. Something in the nature of a manual would be helpful.
- More training of attorneys on the delinquency side of trauma informed courts.
- Pay contract attorneys more, so qualified attorneys will want to do the work.
- Ongoing training regarding interviewing children and assessing children re their needs.
- Law schools should provide students to provide advocacy supervised by their teachers.
- Additional attorneys sufficiently trained and equally dedicated to this work.
- More CASAs! Better trained GALs. More professional attorneys that truly care about these kids and their parents.
- The GAL program in my limited experience have no significant personal involvement with the child.
- Expand each county's GAL program.
- Lawyers just need to do their job period and follow the new law.
- Get contract G.A.L.s to be far more proactive in their cases.
- Youth must understand legal ramification on consequences.
- Maybe more contact with kids attorney.
- The easiest one is to make sure they get to court, often transportation issues cause the kids not to be present.
- Additional funding is needed to lower the caseloads of GALs. There should be a court ward legal advocacy hotline established in the event youth cannot reach their attorneys or GALs. Attorneys, CASAs and GALs should be required to attend CFT meetings if the children attend.
- Better communication between the team members for each child.
- I think all attorneys need to meet with their clients on a regular basis.

- Value and support those advocates that support kids. Loan forgiveness tuition programs for public interest lawyers.
- Try to get those in the legal field to donate time to help the young person.
- When it comes to legal advocacy, you get what you pay for and some are in it just for the money.
- The system seems to be adequate. I am not sure they need more legal assistance.
- Lower the case load for contracted attorneys; provide oversight of their interactions with youth, including how frequently they visit.
- Give career boost to those who will enter legal field of youth advocacy possible by reducing college load debt similar to inner city teaching program.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Recruitment.
- Create local consortiums for youth activities, and utilize present resources. Share the knowledge.
- Attorneys should be stronger advocates for the children to allow them to progress throughout the system more quickly rather than languishing in care.
- We sometimes find attorneys only seeing their clients at the hearings (a quick 1 to 2 minute conversation), with no contact in the months between the hearings. Or if the client is not there, the attorney doesn't know the clients position. Suggestion: REQUIRE attorneys and GALs to meet with their (youth) clients minimum 24 hrs. prior to ALL hearings.
- Actually I think the CASA program does an excellent job. I know I spend many hours at this in every aspect of the child's life seeking answers and follow up to unprovided services.
- Most attorneys tell me privately that they only take dependency cases when all other business is slow. They claim reduced fees vs. more lucrative clients.
- Additional staffing.
- More involvement of assigned attorneys. To have the assigned attorneys & GAL visit the children or at least have office visits to establish a relationship.
- More participation of attorney.
- If this means while they are in foster care, it seems their representation is fairly well met now. After they leave the system, perhaps it could be arranged with the Bar Assn. to do pro bono services for them until age 23.
- Expand attorney training to include services and programs for 16+ youth. Pay attorneys enough to get them to go to CFTs and staffings - more use of TDMs.
- For youths to have better and easier contact with their lawyers Make the attorneys accountable for what they are supposed to do for our kids.
- GALs and court appointed attorneys do very little. They need to advocate for their clients both in the courtroom and outside the courtroom.
- Need attorneys who are dedicated to advancing the needs of the "kids"; not who care about how much \$\$\$ their contracts give them and then they leave the kids to wallow in the system programs and case managers to explain to the youth what legally happens at age 18. Someone to explain the difference between the adult and child legal systems.
- Don't know.
- Likely funding. Identify willing service providers.
- Not sure.
- Require attorneys to meet with their clients at least an hour a month.

**Q.30 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of physical and mental health?**

Answered: 87 Skipped: 84

**Comments**

- Better access to mental health services; timely access to same.
- Return to a treatment based model where cost is not a primary consideration.
- Right now, I don't know.
- Anything would likely be a help. Mental health services are largely without substantial value. The services take FOREVER to get started. Then, when the kids are doing well with a service, it is decided that they can be reduced in services. And the problems recur.

- Make behavioral health agency a party to the dependency case.
- Greater access and swifter access.
- Maintain art, music and physical education in public school systems.
- Require minimum standards for time frames for setting appointments and actually beginning services. DO NOT pay providers for coming to court hearings ....especially when they have nothing to say.
- Too many gaps in services -- we need more continuous care.
- Each child needs to have a "medical home" where their physical and mental health providers are able to access information and provide comprehensive treatment.
- AHCCCS and Magellan should automatically cover youth that have been in foster care.
- Work with the new provider to correct the problems with the old provider.
- A more efficient delivery system that quickly assigns therapists and counselors for the kids.
- Mental health needs to have counselors that can better deal with teenagers and their issues-also they need to be more accessible to the teenager.
- More CASAs.
- Definitely a much better mental health system is needed. Current mental health provider has way too much turnover and lack of continuity in treating the patients.
- Consolidate it all under CMDP for foster children.
- More money for mental health services.
- Better BH services. A therapist who is barely older than the teenager (& dresses like one) can hardly expect to have an impact. Be sure there is a gender match between teenager & therapist.
- The courts must have a closure look at this issue before making a decision.
- Possibly more of an intense trauma therapy. Children are very afraid of the unknown. Some are afraid to move forward.
- Overall wellness, eating well, nutritional counseling/education, sleep without meds, good therapeutic services.
- Additional finding is needed for counseling services. A CMDP liaison should be present in each courthouse in the event a CPDM issue comes up at a hearing. Improved staffing and training is needed at group homes and RTCs to ensure that there is follow up on juveniles needs in this area.
- I don't know.
- Sweeping policy changes that value and support PREVENTION. Expanded Medicare program. Education for those who care for this population.
- Group hikes with adult leaders or even one on one depending on the situation. Group class on eating healthy foods for nutrition and weight control. For mental health, guidance in group discussions where they can vent their feelings and know they are not alone might help. They need to know we can only be who we are. At some point that has to be good enough. Too often I think they become discouraged because of society's insistence that rich, famous people are the ones to look up to and to pattern after. They need a new definition for beauty, substance, and wealth. The way things are going with most people struggling, core values and character need to count the most. Art can help here as well. Do not discount self-expression in all of the arts!
- In my opinion, hypno-therapy may be the best method for healing the abused children and the sooner the better. Often times we wait too long to start therapy.
- I would ensure every youth had some counseling. What happens to them prior to their removal and after their removal is traumatic at best. They need assistance to recognize where they fit in the picture and they have an opportunity to make the most of their lives without being damaged by their past experiences.
- Provide more behavioral health personnel and ensure they are qualified (certified).
- Retain dedicated providers. Not all health professionals are good with youthful patients. Reward those who make a difference.
- Begin services right from the beginning of placement, don't wait for an emergency, and don't over medicate them for a quick fix.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training; counselors with diverse training/sensitivity.
- Funding, management.
- Getting them into quality mental health services ASAP when the need is determined.
- We need more mental health providers. We have had kids that were in serious need of counseling due to sexual abuse victim and then perpetrator and we were unable to get the needed services. He turned 18 and did not sign a voluntary.
- Education on the importance of taking meds for mental health.



- Mental Health services need to recognize the increasing severity of the issues children in foster care are experiencing and develop techniques to deal more effectively with them. New treatment options and increased length of service.
- Mental health is a great concern to me. I am a retired Children's Outpatient Mental Health Therapist and I am discomforted with the services provided for my CASA case. Therapists keep changing, cancelling appointments, won't produce measurable treatment plan goals and progress reports. There should be more providers rather than one contracted service.
- Agencies need to hire more personnel or not accept cases they cannot handle properly. Have better training. Sometimes it takes months to get a child active in a program.
- Way, way more services.
- Greater and longer stays in HCTC homes!!!!
- Gym memberships & encourage mental health professionals to speak to youth about services before they need them.
- REBHAs need to show more concern for the programs and make the children and families more of a priority. need to be held accountable for the deficiencies in programs they are required to provide.
- Stop granting these contracts to agencies with the same programs. Let's see something innovative.
- Cutting the red tape, more access to providers.
- There should be more drug rehabs to go that are decent and take AHCCCS.
- Trying to keep children on meds if needed but not if not needed.

**Q. 31 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of social capital?**

Answered: 54 Skipped: 117

**Comments**

- I'm not sure at this time.
- I don't understand what this means.
- Provide opportunities for the children to develop positive self-esteem. Empower the children to have more successful outcomes in their eyes.
- Try to normalize their circumstances as much as possible.
- More intense Independent living skills training.
- Continue the experimental Federal Grant in Maricopa Co. for the Finding Permanent Placements for older hard to place foster children contracted to Arizona's Children Association.
- What on earth do you mean by "social capital"?
- The opportunities must be earned by the applicant.
- I don't know.
- Stop isolating kids in systems that remove them from society. Find national models that work. Educate communities how to be inclusive of this population.
- I disagree with the common belief that because of computers, fancy phones and social media that communication is better or more real. Quietly speaking to a person and looking into their eyes while doing so or penning an actual thank you note communicate from the heart. They do need to work with social media to some extent but I do not think that should be the main focus.
- No comment.
- Many of our youth are isolated by circumstance or choice. It would be valuable to get them involved with social activities with different age groups. I believe you could tap into the Big Brother-Big Sister programs and use them as a way to better socialize the youth.
- Present youth with opportunities to participate in life situations faced by non-CPS families and help them develop coping and observational skills.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Continue with mental health services--especially anti-drug programs. Require foster parents to enroll children in specialized programs as needed.
- Free birth control of any kind.
- CASA for Kids picks up a lot of tabs to help children go in more child specific direction. No changes needed just a good CPS caseworker and CASA can access already available programs.

- No comment.
- Much more services and coaching in the area.
- Awareness of the economy and how it changes and what education can do to enhance earning ability.
- Not sure.
- Let's start finding more ways to integrate them into the "real world". Let's not keep on keeping them locked up in group homes. They need to meet other kids.
- The kids should not be thrown out onto the street at 18.
- Get them out in the community for volunteering.
- Support systems; using established, successful programs as models to help in social transitions.
- ILS services should address this area.
- I know there are meetings provided through AzCA, but not all kids choose to attend. The Clinic also offers outings, but not all kids choose to attend. Our church offers assistance, but the teens in our home chose not to attend. Summer Camp is offered, but they choose not to attend. They have gone to Young Life. So maybe more groups based on what Young Life does.
- Understand how social networks function. Focus on eliminating bullying and various forms of prejudice: gender preferences, racism, etc.
- Not sure.
- Require twice monthly mandatory CFT's for troubled youth and monthly for stable youth.
- Staff who listen understand and provide choices. Teach our youth to make good choices.
- More partnerships with communities and business to offer youth hands opportunities to experience positive situations that build social capital with guidance on how to leverage what they learn.
- Use plain language. What is social capital?
- Get the word out about services offered! So many services exist but nobody is spreading the word to the people that work with the children - CPS case managers, foster parents, behavior health specialists, CASAs...
- Provide everyone involved with information so they can be told what services are available and encouraged to seek those services by everyone involved with them.
- I do not know what "social capital" is.
- Advocate for more funding.
- Arrange for all teens to go to classes after school and take Passport to Success classes.
- Not sure.
- Teen groups such as guardian angels or explorer programs long on action short on preaching.
- It can be never.
- Define "social capital". If you mean socialization with other youth, provide social situations that would enhance their social skills. Examples: volunteering, attending religious services, being mentors for younger children in care, participating in sports, attending cultural events, etc.

**Q.32 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of financial capability?**

Answered: 63 Skipped: 108

**Comments**

- I spent some time interning as a counselor at Job Corps. That is an awesome program!
- Teach/present budgeting and life skills to them.
- Subsidized higher education at any age if had been in foster care.
- Continue to educate the legislature about the urgency of the needs of our kids.
- More scholarships for college or job training courses.
- Develop partnerships with community colleges and universities in each community to enhance ongoing education for foster children.
- Improve IL training.
- The youth must earn the financial assistance.
- More training and education.
- Prevention, education and job training.
- Education, education, education...and mentoring with seasoned adults. Volunteer work could be good for them as well in order to help others and gain experience in the world.

- Counsel the youth on finding scholarships, grants, and looking to trade schools. Jr. Colleges offer certs in some areas that can result in employment.
- No comment.
- The youth need to understand they are responsible for their own lives. They need to know they can develop their God-given talents to become a great person and a contributor to the society as well as be proud of themselves and their accomplishments. Again, a long-term counselor (someone they can call after completing the programs) might be helpful.
- Training thru AYAP on budgeting, finances, credit cards, checking accounts, etc.
- Begin financial training earlier since some youth never observe how families manage money and the trade-offs necessary for successful management.
- More education/cultural competency, diversity training.
- Require that foster parents give the children adequate money beyond DES allotted allowances, and inspect red folders on each visit.
- That will only come with education.
- Job Training, educational opportunities, and good role models.
- None. Programs available if they are appropriately accessed.
- No comment.
- More intensive training and opportunities to practice.
- Stronger and earlier independent living classes.
- Have them establish an online test account, take them to the bank to open accounts and help them to make deposits and ask questions of bank personnel.
- Not sure.
- ILS should be teaching them about money management, but I fail to see much of it.
- The personal and clothing allowance should be expanded and youth should be responsible for purchasing their needs with the allowances.
- Offering more classes or counseling in financial planning.
- They should be taught about money and bills, and vocabulary regarding money, etc.
- Make them accountable for their actions and money pays the bills so work!
- Maybe working with interns at school, internships in banking, much more education on how to take care of oneself.
- Life Skills that include all levels of budgeting and finance; use educational models that teach these units in their curricula.
- ILS services should address this area.
- Better coordination given the limited resources.
- AzCA, JTED, Yavapai College provide courses and job training. I'm sure there are other agencies who also help. But the child has to see the necessity of doing a job. Some don't want to work.
- Educational focus.
- Outreach in education of financial training.
- Design services that incorporate insights from behavioral economics, with features like automatic reminders or rewards.
- Practical budgeting!!!
- More training on financial capability and responsibility. More hands on, more day to day and how choices with money have both negative and positive outcomes.
- Classes in business, financial law, day to day cost of living and their responsibility.
- Train to get a meaningful job.
- It all comes back to education and job training.
- Education.
- Get the word out about services offered! So many services exist but nobody is spreading the word to the people that work with the children - CPS case managers, foster parents, behavior health specialists, CASAs.
- Opportunities for work study programs.

**Q.33 Please indicate the County (or Counties) where you work or serve.**

Answered: 166 Skipped: 5

Answer Choices	Responses
Apache	1.81% 3
Coconino	1.20% 2
Cochise	3.01% 5
Gila	2.41% 4
Graham	1.81% 3
Greenlee	1.20% 2
La Paz	3.01% 5
Maricopa	53.61% 89
Mohave	5.42% 9
Navajo	2.41% 4
Pinal	4.82% 8
Pima	12.65% 21
Santa Cruz	3.01% 5
Yavapai	7.83% 13
Yuma	2.41% 4

Total Respondents: 166

**Q. 34 Is there anything else that we did not ask you about but that you would like to share about your experience working with youth in foster care?**

Answered: 73 Skipped: 98

**Comments**

- I'd like to see these programs be highly effective so theses youth can lead productive lives.
- We need to do more to attract good foster families to the system!!!!

- These changes were needed 2 or 3 years ago. Let's get rolling.
- When a child determines he/she matters to others they typically achieve a positive outcome. The earlier a child sees he/she can participate in their own decisions often also leads to better outcomes.
- I would like to discuss in more detail about the long term mental health treatment facilities to someone that specializes in this area.
- The most rewarding, but frustrating, assignment I've been on.
- It is not only the foster care child that needs policies, service, and programs. It is vitally necessary that we provide the foster care or adoptive parents with many services.
- It is not only the foster care child that needs policies, service, and programs. It is vitally necessary that we provide the foster care or adoptive parents with many services.
- The FCRB reports must be read by the DES Case Managers and the Courts.
- I feel too much time is given to the parents, raising the hopes of their children, only to be let down. Stop giving them extra time. Let the kids have permanency sooner.
- Hearing from all parties that they are so grateful to have a sounding board (FCRB) to share what's going on especially if there is not a supportive Case manager...
- It's less about the services and more about the attitude of the youths & their interest in succeeding. No amount of services will help if they're not interested.
- Judicial calendars should be better managed to allow for youths to attend court hearings without waiting in the halls for hours and hours. This provides a disincentive to attend hearings.
- No.
- I was a foster mother many years ago in Maricopa County to young women through the Dept. of Detention. In those days most of the girls were runaways. Most had issues but could be worked with successfully in a private home environment. Today's youth have many more challenges! I am a licensed R.N. who is retired after 20 years working with the best doctor in the state. There we had many young patients who came in with many, many difficulties. It always seemed to help them that we approached them from a place of non-judgment and openness.
- The youth we see have experienced great trauma because of drugs, alcohol, physical or mental abuse, abandonment and alienation. We as a society cannot fix those past experiences. We need to show these youth that we care for them, they have value and worth to us, personally. Too often, everyone gets caught up in "doing their job." Perhaps we all need some training to be better attuned to helping those youth recover their own self-worth and value, to learn to be independent (with support always available), and to know they can create their own future based on their decisions. I am always saddened to see these youth feeling they are either responsible for their parents' bad behavior or feeling rejected by everyone, even those who are trying to help them.
- Youth of all ages need advocates, like CASAs and others who have the time to understand their individual needs and find resources to help them.
- I would like to do more to help, but anonymity requires indirect assistance. Are there any programs to help when it is needed?
- I also serve on 2 FCRBs.
- CPS and Judges need to be scrutinized.
- Please get the community more involved. CASAs can follow whatever guidelines provided by the state regarding this.
- Getting them into an environment that is consistent, stable, and meets their needs, ASAP after coming into the system is vital to them having a successful future.
- Most of them are great kids who got stuck with bad parents, it's heartbreaking. I also think CPS should publicly request Laurie Roberts spend 2 full weeks with a case worker(s) so she'll stop beating them up in the AZ Republic.
- Sometimes these children are so overwhelmed by all that is happening to them that they are unable to deal with all the other more mundane issues of life such as school, work and their futures. They often leave foster care without any true direction or support and do not realize what they should have done until it is too late. Quicker permanency would allay some of these issues.
- Santa Cruz needs therapeutic foster homes and a group home.
- Frustration abounds in the lack of cooperation from West Yavapai Guidance services with the CASA and goals of foster parents. Frustration that paperwork does not get progressed to appropriate services for children in placement. Perhaps a division of CPS responsibilities to another venue in the NEEDS care such

as a streamlining process center to coordinate educational, medical and mental health programs would be more efficient and timely. Perhaps judges should put timelines on their orders.

- While the work is very stressful, I feel that I am making a contribution and not just sitting back complaining about how bad the system is. I learned of the problems in the foster care system from reading the Arizona Republic. They seem to do a very good job of getting the issues out there- sometimes TOO good in my opinion, but they don't do enough about inspiring people to help in some way. The number of children in the system in AZ is a huge problem and we should all be involved in some way in trying to manage it. Like they say, if you are not a part of the solution, you are part of the problem. I am considering contacting Laura Roberts or E Montini to try to impress this more upon them, but, again I am new to the FCRB system.
- I am fairly new to the position as a foster care review board member. I do not feel I can give constructive criticism yet, but have noticed one issue that seems to repeat itself. It appears that most youth do not take advantage of staying in the system once they turn 18 in order to take advantage of more opportunities. I am not sure why this is, but it is very concerning.
- Teenage boys want to buy their own underwear and not wear white jockey shorts. The social pressure of wearing these with their pants half way down their butt screams FOSTER KID.
- Hats off to foster parents!!!!
- I was a foster parent and trying to protect the children from have a label as a foster parent when you have social workers going to the school for teenagers can cause embarrassment to the youth. The medical and dental are limited and should include braces because teeth are a part of positive self-image especially if there is a great need. It should be on a case by case and not automatically not included.
- Sorry I couldn't be of more help.
- Very hard for the rural boards to obtain services for kids as many programs cuts and our Case managers have to do everything, therefore nothing gets done well/ each CM cannot be an expert in investigations, adoptions, problem solutions and their time is spread so thin. many times they are even transporting kids, traveling to Phx to meet their visitation responsibilities when a child is placed out of the area, which is often, inter-county cooperation and shared responsibilities would be good. I understand the State has cut back on contracted services from Charity organizations that provide additional services such as Aviva. Cochise Cty would love to be able to have an organization to help out with visitations supervision and transportation etc. out here, but it cannot be started when no state funding is available. Thank you.
- CASAs need training in ILS services and programs and encouragement to stay on after 18 as mentors.
- No.
- As a FCRB member, my experience is almost non-existent. It would be very helpful for me as a member to know more about these agencies and their successes/failures as I do my reviews.....
- This is the last chance to help save these youth.
- I have been on a board for a little over a year and there are many areas I am still getting acquainted with. I like the tours that are set up with the individual group homes and anything else that can educate us within the system. Our facilitator is excellent in helping inform and educate as much as she can.
- Our youth need permanency as soon as possible and do not need to be in the system for long times.
- The kids are the ones to suffer. Parents need to respond in a time sensitive way, and if they don't. Take away their rights so kids can grow up in a loving home. Not in CRISIS.
- More teen related community centers in rural areas.
- Need to increase the board members.
- Not right now.
- Based on experience in the disabilities field and public health, I would suggest the need for more and better collaboration between and among agencies, foster families, medical care system, mental services, education and the courts.
- No.
- The general attitude toward teens in our society must change. These kids are vulnerable and often need nothing more than for someone to believe in them. It takes just one person to make a significant impact in the lives of our youth.
- There is nothing constant in these children's lives. They need people who will support them for as long as it takes.
- We should not have to plead, threaten people to get basic services in a timely manner.
- Love them, listen to them, and provide structure and firm discipline with understandable consequences for mis-behavior.

- Stats are very disturbing.
- It's hard staying in the loop when CPS doesn't want you there. I feel they feel threatened by CASA
- closer working relationship between departments involved.
- simplify the rigorous rules to "stay in the program" after 18.
- Much praise for the Case Workers. They are overworked, underpaid, and oftentimes under appreciated.
- Serving as a board member is emotional and it is sometimes frustrating, if there is anything that can be done to increase the effectiveness of the boards, I am all for it. We appreciate the hard work of many of the case managers and foster families, but we also see many times when case loads and money problems create problems that will last a life time for these kids.
- Incomplete paperwork and participation from agencies in the FCRB process.
- Thank you for soliciting input from volunteers - I appreciate that my input is considered.
- Need to build more support groups for the YAP when they leave the foster care system.
- Case managers need to attend boards. If they can't then they need to send in reports and be available by phone. It's a huge disservice to the family that we have no information.
- I hope foster parents and kids are asked to contribute to this endeavor.....they all have a "wish list".
- As a foster care review member, I have been given almost no information\about the services/policies noted above.
- I sit on the Gila 1 FCRB in Globe. It is very frustrating to not have case managers attend reviews, not have an up to date case plan, progress reports and target dates. It is difficult to make informed recommendations to the court when two or three reviews in a row have none of the above provided for our information. At the last three reviews, there has been only one case manager attend the review. He was new to the case and had very little input. It is a grievous disservice to the child/children in foster care, when the person they have to depend on the most, is not interested or caring enough to attend a FCRB review. What else is the case manager missing?
- More prevention services are needed. Arizona is putting too many children in out of home placements. When placement is necessary, efforts to create permanent situations for kids should be done more quickly. Most kids should not be in foster care anymore than 18 months to 2 years.
- I have been involved with FCRB since 1995&I was a CASA.I don't think there have been any great strides made in the system because of budget, turnovers & lack of services. The teens are not leaving the system better off &often repeat their bad behaviors as adults.
- Is there any way we can encourage planned parenthood or birth control in the sessions.
- We can be more successful IF we truly want to!
- These children live in fishbowls! Every action is scrutinized for rebellion and/or disruptive behavior. They can't have normal ups and downs common to all kids, especially teens, without someone, somewhere, making a report.
- In the past many things worked that the courts dismantled in mental health, and childlike institutions.
- I think they need to be heard in court. I am under the impression that the youth in care cannot or are not allowed to speak directly to the judge. If that is true, perhaps they should. Also, I am a retired high school teacher, and in 35 years, I never knew if my students were in foster care unless they told me in confidence. Knowing a "child" is living at a group home helped me understand why he/she could not type a research paper or do any research on their own. Also, there were times I had helpful information that could have been shared at an FCRB. Keeping teachers in the loop might be helpful; by the way, we have all had background checks.
- The system is handicapped by providing for the parents' rights while NEGLECTING the children's rights. The state allows a woman who has had several terminated children to continue, especially when these children have serious health or mental issue. The state does not take any criminal action against the mother or father. The child pays the price for the WHOLE life. IF that parent did physical abuse we would press criminal charges but not for continuing to have children. This to me a far greater crime that the state commits by putting the parents' rights before the children. Press criminal charges against repeat offenders. SHORTEN time parent has to show ability to change.
- I have only been involved for two months. I am familiar with all of the items above from another county in another state. What I have found programs are effective depending on the person in charge and how dedicated they are.
- No. I am overall impressed with what is done for these youths and wish funding wasn't such a big issue.
- Too much turnover in CPS case workers.

## Appendix 2: Foster Parent Survey

A survey was administered online using Survey Monkey.com for foster parents with experience parenting older teens. Potential survey respondents were invited to participate by the Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Survey participants were asked for input on their experience providing foster care to teens and the effectiveness of policies, programs, services and supports in helping youth successfully transition from foster care, barriers and recommendations to expand opportunities for youth in the future. Responses were received from 28 participants.

### Q.1 How long have you been a licensed foster parent in Arizona?

Answered: 28 Skipped:0

Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 1 year	7.14% 2
1-3 years	32.14% 9
4-6 years	10.71% 3
7-10 years	7.14% 2
11 or more years	42.86% 12
Total	28

### Q.2 How many foster children have lived with you?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
<u>Responses</u> _____	14.26	385	27

### Q. 3 How many youth placed with you were 16 years or older?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
<u>Responses</u> _____	2.41	65	27

### Q.4 How many youth placed with you have remained in your home past their 18th birthday?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
<u>Responses</u> _____	0.54	14	26



**Q.5 How effective are ADES-DCYF specialized case management staff for young adults (Arizona Young Adult Program)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>21.43%</b> 6	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>21.43%</b> 6	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>3.57%</b> 1	<b>32.14%</b> 9	28

**Q.6 How effective is Foster Parent training?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>17.86%</b> 5	<b>46.43%</b> 13	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>0%</b> 0	28

**Q. 7 How effective are ADES-DCYF Youth Advisory Boards?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>3.57%</b> 1	<b>17.86%</b> 5	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>50%</b> 14	28

**Q.8 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Independent Living Subsidy Program?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>17.86%</b> 5	<b>3.57%</b> 1	<b>42.86%</b> 12	28

**Q.9 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Education and Training Voucher Program?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>17.86%</b> 5	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>42.86%</b> 12	28

**Q.10 How effective is the ADES-DCYF Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>3.57%</b> 1	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>7.14%</b> 2	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>57.14%</b> 16	28

**Q.11 How effective are Foster Care Review Boards?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent Number</b>	<b>3.57%</b> 1	<b>14.29%</b> 4	<b>28.57%</b> 8	<b>35.71%</b> 10	<b>10.71%</b> 3	<b>7.14%</b> 2	28

**Q.12 How effective are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>21.43%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	3	5	5	5	4	6	28

**Q.13 How effective is the coordination of services by Juvenile Probation (JPO) and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>64.29%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	0	2	4	4	0	18	28

**Q.14 How effective is the coordination of services by ADJC and ADES-DCYF for dual wards (Delinquent and Dependent)?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>67.86%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	0	2	2	5	0	19	28

**Q.15 How effective is Independent Living Skills Training?**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>11.54%</b>	<b>7.69%</b>	<b>34.62%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	4	4	3	2	9	26

**Q.16 How effective is the legal representation of Youth in Dependency Proceedings?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>39.29%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>35.71%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	2	2	11	3	0	10	28

**Q.17 How effective are college scholarships for youth in foster care?**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>3.85%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>11.54%</b>	<b>19.23%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>34.62%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	1	4	3	5	4	9	26

**Q.18 How effective are efforts to include the youth in the decision making process?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>35.71%</b>	<b>10.71%</b>	<b>7.14%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	
<b>Number</b>	4	4	10	3	2	5	28

**Q.19 How effective are efforts to include foster parents in the case planning process?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	21.43%	17.86%	7.14%	21.43%	21.43%	10.71%	
<b>Number</b>	6	5	2	6	6	3	28

**Q.20 How effective are education services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	7.14%	21.43%	25%	25%	10.71%	10.71%	
<b>Number</b>	2	6	7	7	3	3	28

**Q.21 How effective are job training and employment services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	10.71%	17.86%	17.86%	7.14%	14.29%	32.14%	
<b>Number</b>	3	5	5	2	4	9	28

**Q.22 How effective are health care services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	25%	28.57%	3.57%	
<b>Number</b>	2	4	6	7	8	1	28

**Q.23 How effective are mental health services?**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	25%	21.43%	17.86%	25%	7.14%	3.57%	
<b>Number</b>	7	6	5	7	2	1	28

**Q.24 How effective are housing services?**

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Mostly effective	Completely Effective	Don't Know	Total
<b>Percent</b>	11.11%	11.11%	18.52%	3.70%	7.41%	48.15%	
<b>Number</b>	3	3	5	1	2	13	27

**Q. 25 What barriers prevent the policies, services and supports from being more effective?**

Answered: 20 Skipped: 8

**Comments**

- CPS case management. Some of the management and workers are not effective, others (though not many) are incredibly dedicated. DCYF resources are limited, so budgeting is a key area. Red tape (i.e. criteria; contingencies; cut offs; etc.) prevents many youth from obtaining and/or continuing independent living services and supports. DCYF direction and/or CPS case managers seem to be ineffective and/or not promoting the voluntary option and instead, leaving kids to age out in their foster home, with no plan, no supports, no transition -- just closing the case.
- Poor CPS worker that does not communicate misses meetings and makes poor decisions.
- Case workers don't know where to get services. More info needs to be offered to these kids.

- CPS CM's pride, arrogance and lack of respect for Foster parents.
- Not enough employees.
- Not enough employees.
- Lack of good working relationships with licensing agency and CPS.
- Lack of stability at CPS, lack of manpower at CPS, case overloads at CPS.
- Judges.
- Cash-- we need to require more, pay more and invest in public awareness.
- So many kids, so many people out there having children as if they are puppies from the humane society.
- Funding in services / better recruitment for families More realized goals for the youths.
- Not enough cps workers and some of them are so burned out that they really can't care about all the kids on their caseload. sometimes there are so many kids, only the kids who get in trouble the most are usually 'heard'. and foster care parents are lied to alot so they will take a placement. we need to be told the truth so kids don't blow placements because the truth wasn't told about their behavior. just sets them up for failure!
- Communication to the kid. Disconnection between all the groups and providers. Lack of "mentors" to guide the kids.
- It is too segmented and it is hard to get leadership to drive the process forward.
- Central website where we access agencies. transferring agencies real pain.
- 18 year olds can opt out but they are not prepared for independence because of restrictions during adolescence in the foster care system. We do not treat them like normal children.
- Communication and services needed.

**Q.26 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of permanence?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 13

**Comments**

- Group meeting for youth to talk thing out with their peers.
- Start case planning at age 16 and actually execute and fulfill the plan. Court orders, etc. are usually more effective than a CPS case manager leading the case plan. Best for Babies is working for young foster children, perhaps a Best for Teens type program could be developed as well by the Court. It's either that, or significant changes at the government level with laws and funding to support teens aging out, supporting and enforcing DCYF to successfully transition youth out of foster care. One major change would be to put all of foster children's services in one Department. Presently, foster children's services are split between DES and DHS. Add DOE for education and Court system for legal and it's easy to see why foster children's services are fragmented, confusing and ineffective. To consolidate services into one area of the government for foster children would create more consistency, efficiency, and save a lot of money that could quickly be put back into the foster children and their short term and long terms needs and successes.
- The process of the transition should start when the kids turn 17. So that the kids are secure on what is to come when they turn 18. It would have less stress on the kids.
- Equip and empower Foster families to want to continue to provide homes for these youth past the age of 18.
- No comment.
- Full funding of the program and one on one assistance with the youth.
- Judges.
- Change the perception of foster care. We are not an alternative we are America's hope for our foster children.
- Get the youth adopted at a younger age. Get their info out there so people who are looking to adopt know that they are available. For all the kids that are 'advertised' need permanent homes...very very few are known about.
- Mentors. Consistency. Clear path to all resources. Helping kids meet minimum needs early and then educating them in how to improve their own opportunities. In my experience, the ones that are successful. are individually motivated. Not all kids are equally motivated.
- Follow up to ensure kids are utilizing the services and not abusing them. Kids also need a place to call home while they are in college. Where do these kids go on breaks and holidays?
- Starting in 5th and 6th teaching skills these preteens and teens are so far behind.

- Provide normalcy for later adolescence.
- Communication and services needed.

**Q.27 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of education?**

Answered:16 Skipped: 12

**Comments**

- Not sure.
- Greater focus on skills such as tech, automotive, plumbing, construction, etc.
- Online school more accessible.
- The biggest thing is to make sure these youth have the same loving support that our natural children are given. It is absolutely crazy to expect these children to do better on their own than we expect our own to do.
- Begin educating youth upon entering high school about services available to them. Print a booklet for distribution about educational services and opportunities.
- Fully funding existing programs would help.
- Judges.
- Eliminate social promotion. If you fail a subject or grade, mastery is absolute.
- Better education for youth, mentoring, internship, on the job training.
- Set the bar higher, earlier so that they achieve success and go on to higher education.
- Summer school for life skills, mentorship, interns programs and health skills.
- Involve the faith community and other public organizations more fully with less restrictions.
- Communication and services needed.

**Q.28 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in the area of employment?**

Answered: 16 Skipped: 12

**Comments**

- Job fairs.
- Job programs beginning at age 16, if that's not already happening. Foster teens need time to learn about jobs and if we expect them to be successfully and gainfully employed at 18, then we need to ensure they have plenty of time to know how to do this! My main issue is that I don't even know what the employment services are for foster teens! Educating and informing foster parents and providers would be useful, as well as CPS case managers simply communicating more with foster parents AND their licensing agencies.
- Greater focus on skills such as tech, automotive, plumbing, construction, etc.
- More training during high school. Weekend job placement if they choose.
- A lot of these kids are delayed in their emotional growth due to the trauma experienced earlier on. Some of them have so much hurt to deal with that pushing them to find work really isn't an option for the lack of training, confidence and emotional stability. Education and healing should be the priority. Work will fall into place when they are ready and trained.
- Educate foster/adopt parents about Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act Program services.
- One on one assistance with the youth.
- Judges.
- We need to tackle this one at the adult level first! FC are aware their parents don't work and rely on the government for sustainability. Therefore, the cycle of dependency on social welfare is repeated.
- Maybe some of the places around town can start foster programs, putting emphasis on hiring kids.
- Better training for youths to get them ready for adulthood.
- Maybe give the kids an incentive to work or give work places some type of 'award' to hire older foster youth.
- List of agencies that will work with foster teens so far behind in education and life skills.
- Normalize teen life. Let them make mistakes.

**Q.29 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of housing?**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 15

**Comments**

- Need more than just Florence Crittenton available! See above for comments as well. I am not familiar with any other housing services available for foster teens.
- The older kids need more of a parent figure. Group home are not mentally fit for these kids. They see them as people that are at work. Not there to connect with them. They are shift change.
- Find more transitional homes. Encourage more Foster families to continue to assist these youth as they would their own natural youth.
- One on one assistance and full funding of the program.
- Judges.
- Provide funding and open contracts for those of us in the community who are willing to help but don't have the finances to do so.
- Shared housing or low income housing for youths 18 to 25.
- I wish we had work farms, mentor work programs that show works skills starting in the housing. If you cannot cook, set alarm, ride bus, or read signs you are in trouble.
- Transitional housing.

**Q.30 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of legal advocacy?**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 15

**Comments**

- Many legal reps go through the motions of their cases. Need more investment in the foster children and their big picture/their future. Many legal reps know the law and foster care case very well and represent accordingly, but they do not know the child. The expertise in the foster care law is needed and should continue, but knowing the child would bolster their representation and advocacy for the child's best interests. Communicating with foster parents more often as well as their licensing agency would help familiarize them with the foster child as well (i.e. attending CFTs; ISPs; IEPs; etc.).
- We need active recruitment of CASAs.
- The GAL needs to be present when the kids fall into trouble and get arrested. Also when the kids go to court the case manager needs to attend.
- Get more attorneys on board that have a genuine passion for the youth and not so much about the programs.
- Not sure.
- One on one assistance with the youth.
- Judges.
- Hold the GAL accountable. Many of them never meet, and much less KNOW their client.
- Rise the age from 18 or 21 to 25, foster youths have more trauma to work though in a shorter period of time.
- Have lawyers face to face talk to the kids.
- Do not know.

**Q.31 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of physical and mental health?**

Answered: 11 Skipped: 17

**Comments**

- Not sure.
- Physical health coverage is excellent, as provided by CMDP and its contracted providers. Excellent provider selection these days! Mental health needs a major change for services, as foster children do not

receive anywhere near adequate services. See above for additional comments and suggestions. Many major issues occurring in foster care present day are due to lack of behavioral health services, both for acute as well as ongoing behavioral health needs! Major area that needs attention! My main opinion is to end RBHA contracts and for DES to take back behavioral health services for foster children.

- Get counselors who are interested in the wholeness of the person by involving the foster parents who see the youth daily and deal with the mood swings and the moments of hurt. Care more about what's happening today and don't force them to talk about the past every time they go into the office. This has been counterproductive in the past.
- Promote in a positive manner where youth will not feel degraded or different. Youth for Youth type settings discussing positive outcome.
- Shorten waiting periods for services, less denial of services, better funding.
- Judges.
- Stop being so quick to medicate foster children.
- Youths with mental health issues need more support and for long periods of time.
- More access to programs. Improved providers.
- We need better behaviorist trained, experts on attachment issues for teens, boot camps available for very angry teens. Boot camps or wilderness is 19,000 Teaching how diet effects the health.
- Develop a comprehensive health system.

**Q.32 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of social capital (friends, connections, family, mentors, social networks)?**

Answered: 11 Skipped: 17

**Comments**

- Not sure.
- Many foster children go back to bio family members when dumped by DCYF at age 18. Foster teens need to have connections and relationships well rooted by the time they turn 18, so they have healthy, safe, reliable and helpful resources. Start this at least at age 16 with their case planning.
- Allow them to participate in social media like "normal" kids.
- Not sure.
- One on one mentoring with each youth.
- Judges.
- Put more money into mentoring programs. There are adults who would love to connect, mentor and help.
- Positive community images of foster kids have more families talk about the positive of foster care.
- Sibling reunions. Alumni programs (like In My Shoes) Mentors.
- Teaching true social skills, manners, and networking would be amazing.
- They will do a good job if allowed to be normal teens.

**Q 33 What changes, if any, can be made to the policies, programs and services to expand opportunities for youth in the future in area of financial capability?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 16

**Comments**

- YAP has had a good foundation and plan for many youth, all the way back to the mid-90s. Not receiving enough funding is an issue and financial support has decreased to the point of not existing for this program. Funding should increase here for sure by the government. In addition, CPS case management is poor overall, other than the few who have a heart and are dedicated. Of what is available, the case managers should be promoting the success of foster teens by using what is available vs. just trying to drop kids at 18 and close their case. This happens all the time (for whatever the reason) and foster teens are left abandoned and on their own at 18 years of age.
- Equip Foster families to teach them financial responsibility.
- Should retro payment for kinship while taking foster care classes.

- Youth should have access to a money matters class with hands-on counseling for up to six month to promote budgeting skills.
- One on one guidance with each youth.
- Judges.
- Foster parents are key. We need to teach our F C about saving, coupon clipping, clearance racks, budgeting, household expenses, etc.
- Making a second level for youths 18 to 25, spend the money to help the youths or watch them go in and out of JAIL.
- Teaching small business ethics, long term planning starting very early with the foster children.
- Financial training.

**Q.34 Please indicate the County (or Counties) where you reside.**

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Apache	0% 0
Coconino	0% 0
Cochise	0% 0
Gila	0% 0
Graham	0% 0
Greenlee	0% 0
La Paz	3.57% 1
Maricopa	85.71% 24
Mohave	0% 0
Navajo	3.57% 1
Pinal	0% 0
Pima	7.14% 2
Santa Cruz	0% 0
Yavapai	0% 0
Yuma	0% 0



**Q.35 Is there anything else that we did not ask you about but that you would like to share about your experience as a foster parent for older youth?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 16

**Comments**

- I am a professional in foster care and not a foster parent. I can be contacted at mtrcal@cox.net for any follow-up questions. In my experience, the teens are a forgotten group and poorly supported when it comes to funding, services and case management. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey and advocate for teens in foster care and their success for independence.
- Parenting these youth has been extremely rewarding. It is quite unfortunate that the system doesn't treat most Foster parents with the respect or dignity we deserve. We have placed ourselves in one of the most vulnerable positions life can offer. We have jumped through hoops and in some cases rings of fire and yet we are treated as if we have done something wrong. We are not included in many of the decisions that are made that affect these children and ultimately affect our entire family. Often our input is not valued or considered.
- Need to have a governing board overlooking places that provide mental health support. There's a 6 week waiting list for counseling and that's all agencies. When you do get mental health you get an intern that has no experience with kids with these problems. Still waiting for individual therapy since November 2012.
- If the Judges would make better decisions for the Kids when there young and not the Parents - There wouldn't be so many teenagers in the system.
- Note: We foster-adopted a pair of teens that we originally mentored. We have not fostered since that, however, I have contact with many foster teens and there needs to be more personalized leadership, mentoring and social/emotional support made available to them.
- Teens need "parents" not adult friends. Most teens have enough friends :-).
- We work very hard raising children, to see them age out of the system without get the all the help that they requires, for the lack of funding, understanding and support.
- More kids would get adopted if it was known they were up for adoption. Very few are on the adoption sites. They always advertise all these kids need families but you NEVER see nor hear about most of them. Seems like it would benefit the older kids as well as the younger ones to get their forever family as fast as they can :).
- The pressures of growing up are hard enough. For a kid in care with not support mechanism it is no wonder many fail. PLEASE build bridges not hurdles. Help these kids see a better, newer path to success and put the resources in places where they can easily access without have to trade basic needs.
- We find that we feel isolated with FAS teens, there are not enough trained life coaches, behaviorist and that truly understand fantasy and reality is all messed up with these youth. Where are the experts to teach these teens how to cope?

## Appendix 3: Youth Survey

A survey was administered to youth transitioning from foster care and alumni attending the Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF) Annual Youth Conference on June 26, 2013. This comprehensive survey consisted of the questions used in the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Passport Survey with the exception of some program-specific questions pertaining to matching accounts. The survey was administered primarily as an online survey with a paper option. Administering the Arizona Youth Opportunities Survey provided an opportunity for Arizona to gain experience with the survey, obtain feedback from youth about their survey experience and gather comprehensive information and baseline data on key outcomes. Survey participants included 20 volunteers attending the conference. The majority (73.7%) were ADES-State Youth Advisory Board members. As an incentive to participate, youth were given a raffle ticket for the drawing of prizes that included \$20 Target Gift Cards and other prizes.

### Q.1 Are you male or female?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	40.0%	8
Female	60.0%	12
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

### Q.2 What is your date of birth?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Month Day Year	100.0%	20
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

### Q.3 How old are you?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
14	0.0%	0
15	5.3%	1
16	15.8%	3
17	42.1%	8
18	10.5%	2
19	15.8%	3
20	10.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.4 What is your race or ethnic background? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White	50.0%	10
Black/African-American	25.0%	5
Hispanic/Latino	40.0%	8
Asian	0.0%	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0
Native American/Alaskan Native	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.5 Are you currently in foster care (including voluntary agreement beyond age 18)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.0%	17
No	5.0%	1
Don't know	10.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.6 Altogether, how many foster homes or other placements have you ever had?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1-3	40.0%	8
4-10	50.0%	10
11-20	5.0%	1
More than 20	5.0%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.7 Of these, how many have been in foster homes (not group homes, shelters or residential treatment centers)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0	15.0%	3
1-3	55.0%	11
4-10	25.0%	5
11-20	5.0%	1
More than 20	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.8 Of these, how many have been in group care (for example, group homes, shelters or residential treatment centers)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0	40.0%	8
1-3	35.0%	7
4-10	20.0%	4
11-20	5.0%	1
More than 20	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.9 What is your marital status?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Single	90.0%	18
Living with partner	10.0%	2
Married	0.0%	0
Separated	0.0%	0
Divorced	0.0%	0
Widowed	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.10 How many children do you have?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
None	95.0%	19
1	5.0%	1
2	0.0%	0
3	0.0%	0
4	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.11 If you have children, do any of these children currently live with you?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	0.0%	0
No	100.0%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>1</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>19</b>

**Q 12. Are you currently a member of a local or state Youth Advisory Board for the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	73.7%	14
No	26.3%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.13 Are you currently enrolled in school?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.0%	17
No	15.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.14 What type of school are you currently enrolled in? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Junior high school or middle school	0.0%	0
High school	58.8%	10
Vocational school	0.0%	0
Community college	23.5%	4
College	17.6%	3
Graduate school	0.0%	0
GED Class	5.9%	1
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q. 15 Are you in school full-time or part time?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Full-time	76.5%	13
Part-time	23.5%	4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q. 16 What is the highest grade you have completed at this time? (Do not include the year you are presently in)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Sixth grade or less	0.0%	0
Seventh grade	0.0%	0
Eighth grade	5.0%	1
Ninth grade	0.0%	0
Tenth grade	15.0%	3
Eleventh grade	45.0%	9
Twelfth grade	30.0%	6
One or more years of college but no college degree	5.0%	1
Associates or 2-year college degree	0.0%	0
Bachelors or 4-year college degree	0.0%	0
Some Graduate School	0.0%	0
Graduate degree	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>20</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

**Q.17 Have you received a high school diploma, a general equivalency diploma (GED), or any other high school equivalent diploma? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High school diploma	26.3%	5
GED or other high school equivalent diploma	10.5%	2
None of the above	63.2%	12
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>19</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

**Q.18 Have you participated in or attended any of the following? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Military	0.0%	0
AmeriCorps	0.0%	0
Job Corps	0.0%	0
<b>Peace Corps</b>	0.0%	0
Vocational School (includes trade or technical school)	12.5%	1
None of the above	87.5%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>8</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>12</b>

**Q.19 Are you currently participating in any of the following? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Work experience activity (for example, job shadowing, spending time with an employee at a workplace to see what their job is like, interviewing an employer or employee for a project or report)	5.3%	1
Internship (working on a short-term basis for a company or organization in order to gain practical work experience, could be paid or unpaid)	15.8%	3
Apprenticeship (learning a trade or art through a combination of paid on-the-job training and classes usually under agreement or contract)	0.0%	0
Pre-employment training (for example, developing a resume, training on work ethics, appropriate dress, or time management)	15.8%	3
On-the-job training (for example, learning how to operate a cash register or a phone system, etc)	10.5%	2
Independent living classes (either paid or unpaid)	47.4%	9
I am not currently participating in any of these activities	47.4%	9
<b>answered question</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Q.20 If you are not currently participating in these activities, have you ever participated in any of the following? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Work experience activity (for example, "job shadowing" - spending time with an employee at a workplace to see what their job is like, interviewing an employer or employee for a project or report)	44.4%	4
Internship (working on a short-term basis for a company or organization in order to gain practical work experience, could be paid or unpaid)	55.6%	5
Apprenticeship (learning a trade or art through a combination of paid on-the-job training and classes, usually under agreement or contract)	11.1%	1
Pre-employment training (for example, developing a resume, training on work ethics, appropriate dress, or time management)	0.0%	0
On-the-job training (for example, learning how to operate a cash register or a phone system, etc.)	22.2%	2
Independent living classes (either paid or unpaid)	33.3%	3
I have not participated in any of these activities	33.3%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

**Q.21 Do you currently have one (or more) paying job(s)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	40.0%	8
No	60.0%	12
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.22 If no, have you ever had a paying job?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	30.0%	3
No	70.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>10</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>10</b>

**Q.23 On the average, how many hours do you work per week? (Please enter a number for example 20 or 30)**

Answer Options	Response Average	Range	Response Count
Hours per week	22.44	0-36	9
<i>answered question</i>			<b>9</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>11</b>

**Q.24 Have you been working full-time (40 hours or more per week) without interruption (straight) for the past six months or longer?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	0.0%	0
No	100.0%	8
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>12</b>

**Q.25 How many months or years have you been working without interruption (straight) at your current job?**

Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
If less than 1 year, enter the number of months you have been working _____	3.57	25	7
If 1 year or more, enter the number of years you have been working _____	1.00	2	2
<i>answered question</i>			<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>12</b>



**Q.26 What is your hourly pay? (Please enter a number, for example, 7 or 8) Round up to nearest whole number and do not use \$ or decimal points.(.)**

Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
	7.33	66	9
<i>answered question</i>			<b>9</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>11</b>

**Q. 27 Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of public assistance? (Social Security, TANF, Disability, Unemployment, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (Food Stamps), WIC, EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer or Section 8 Housing Assistance)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	26.3%	5
No	47.4%	9
Don't know	26.3%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.28 When you need someone to give you good advice about a crisis, are there ..**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	90.0%	18
Too few people you can count on	10.0%	2
No one you can count on	0.0%	0
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.29 When you need someone to give you advice about your job or school, are there..**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	80.0%	16
Too few people you can count on	20.0%	4
No one you can count on	0.0%	0
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.30 When you need someone to loan you money in an emergency, are there....**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enough people you can count on	35.0%	7
Too few people you can count on	50.0%	10
No one you can count on	15.0%	3
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>

skipped question 0

**Q.31 Do you have an adult in your family that you will always be able to turn to for support? (for example, birth or adoptive parent, spouse, adult sibling, extended family member, legal guardian)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.0%	18
No	10.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.32 If yes, which one adult family member do you turn to most often? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Birth parent	22.2%	4
Adoptive parent	11.1%	2
Spouse	0.0%	0
Adult sibling	16.7%	3
Extended family member (for example, aunt, grandfather, cousin, etc.)	16.7%	3
Legal guardian	33.3%	6
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>18</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Q.33 If you need it, what can you count on this person to do? If needed, I can count on him or her to...(Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Celebrate special events with me, such as my birthday, holidays, etc.	76.5%	13
Talk with me about my problems	100.0%	17
Help me feel good about myself	76.5%	13
Be trusted with my most private information	76.5%	13
Provide me with a place to live	70.6%	12
Help me find a job	64.7%	11
Help me if I am sick	82.4%	14
Celebrate my successes with me, such as school graduation, getting a new job, find a college or school, helping you fill out new job, etc.	76.5%	13
Help me get into college, community college or vocational school (FYI Helping you get into school includes any support you don't need to pay for like helping you find a college or school, helping you fill out applications, taking you to college visits etc.)	58.8%	10
Help me pay for some or all of my education	47.1%	8
Help me care for my children	5.9%	1
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q.34 Do you have an adult other than a family member that you will always be able to turn to for support?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.0%	17
No	15.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.35 If yes, which one adult would you turn to most often? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Foster parent	33.3%	5
Caseworker (includes case coordinator, case manager, social worker, Independent Living staff, Life Skills worker, Chafee worker, Transition Specialist)	40.0%	6
Teacher	0.0%	0
Someone from my church or faith-based community	13.3%	2
Mentor	13.3%	2
Other (please specify)		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

**Q.36 If you need it, what can you count on this person to do? If needed, I can count on him or her to...(Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Celebrate special events with me, such as my birthday, holidays, etc.	58.8%	10
Talk with me about my problems	76.5%	13
Help me feel good about myself	52.9%	9
Be trusted with my most private information	52.9%	9
Provide me with a place to live	35.3%	6
Help me find a job	64.7%	11
Help me if I am sick	35.3%	6
Celebrate my successes with me, such as school graduation, getting a new job etc.	64.7%	11
Helping me get into college, community college or vocational school (FYI Helping you get into school includes any support you don't need to pay for like helping you find a college or school, helping you fill out applications, taking you to college visits, etc.)	41.2%	7
Help me pay for some or all of my education	23.5%	4
Help me care for my children	11.8%	2
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q.37 Please think about adults in your life who support you in some way. If you need it, what can you count on these people to do? (Please check all that apply)**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Celebrate special events with me, such as my birthday, holidays, etc.	64.7%	11
Talk with me about my problems	76.5%	13
Help me feel good about myself	58.8%	10
Be trusted with my most private information	58.8%	10
Provide me with a place to live	64.7%	11
Help me find a job	70.6%	12
Help me if I am sick	58.8%	10
Celebrate my successes with me, such a school graduation, getting a new job, etc.	64.7%	11
Help me get into college, community college or vocational school (FYI Helping you get into school includes any support you don't need to pay for like helping you find a college or school, helping you fill out applications, taking you to college visits, etc.)	58.8%	10
Helping me pay for some or all of my education	35.3%	6
Help me care for my children	11.8%	2
Other (please specify)		0
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

**Q.38 Where are you currently living? (Please check one only)**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Living Independently (by myself, with a friend, roommate, boyfriend, girlfriend, fiancé, husband, wife, etc.)	21.1%	4
Living with Family (Birth parents, other relative such as aunt, brother or sister, Adoptive parents, legal guardian)	21.1%	4
Living in a Foster Home	26.3%	5
Living in a Group Setting (Group home or Residential Treatment Facility)	15.8%	3
Living in a School Dormitory (Indian Boarding School or college dormitory)	0.0%	0
Independent Living Program or Supervised Independent Living Program or Transitional Living Program	15.8%	3
Couch Surfing or Moving from House to House (because you don't have a place to stay)	0.0%	0
Homeless (includes living in a homeless shelter)	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>

**Q.39 How many different places have you lived in the past twelve months? (Please enter a number, for example 3)**

Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
	2.15	43	20
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>20</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

**Q.40 Have you ever couch surfed or moved from house to house because you didn't have a place to stay?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	5.0%	1
No	95.0%	19
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>20</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>0</b>

**Q.41 Have you ever slept in a homeless shelter or in a place where people weren't meant to sleep (for example, a car, the street) because you didn't have a place to stay?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	25.0%	5
No	75.0%	15
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>20</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>0</b>

**Q.42 Do you pay for housing? (FYI If you are paying for some of your rent, you should say YES)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	21.1%	4
No	78.9%	15
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>19</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>1</b>

**Q.43 Is your housing affordable? (FYI Affordable means you can pay for your housing and still have enough for other expenses such as food, transportation and utilities.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	61.1%	11
No	38.9%	7
		<i>answered question</i>
		<b>18</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		<b>2</b>

**Q.44 Do you feel safe inside your home?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	20
No	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q. 45 Do you feel safe in the neighborhood where you live?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.0%	16
No	20.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q. 46 Do you feel that your housing situation is stable? (For example, can you stay as long as you would like to, do you have control over whether you stay or have to leave?)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.5%	17
No	10.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.47 Do you have access to the transportation you need to get to school or work?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.0%	16
No	20.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.48 Do you have a valid driver's license?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	5.0%	1
No	95.0%	19
I'm not old enough	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.49 Do you own a motor vehicle (for example, car, van, truck, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	4
No	80.0%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.50 Do you have an Independent Living Plan that a caseworker or social worker helped you prepare? (You only need to answer this question if you are currently in foster care) (FYI An Independent Living Plan is a written plan to prepare you for adulthood that might include goals for education, employment and housing.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	78.9%	15
No	21.1%	4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q. 51 If yes, does it contain a housing plan that you believe will lead to safe, stable and affordable housing?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	86.7%	13
No	13.3%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

**Q.52 Did you participate in the development of this housing plan?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.3%	12
No	7.7%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>13</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>7</b>

**Q.53 Do you have health insurance?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.0%	12
No	10.0%	2
Don't know	30.0%	6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.53 If yes, who pays for your health insurance? (Please check one only)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Covered by my parent's insurance	0.0%	0
Covered by my spouse's insurance	0.0%	0
Covered by insurance provided by my employer	0.0%	0
Covered by insurance provided by my school	0.0%	0
I buy private insurance myself	0.0%	0
I am covered by Medicaid (AHCCCS or YATI (Young Adult Transition Insurance))	80.0%	8
Don't know	20.0%	2
Other (please specify)		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>10</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>10</b>

**Q. 54 Does your health insurance have dental benefits, or do you have separate dental insurance?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Health insurance has dental benefits	83.3%	10
Separate dental insurance	0.0%	0
I do not have dental insurance	0.0%	0
Don't know	16.7%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>12</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>8</b>

**Q.56 Does your health insurance pay for you to get mental health services, like counseling and substance abuse treatment, if you needed it?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.9%	10
No	0.0%	0
Don't know	9.1%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>11</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>9</b>

**Q. 57 When did you last have a physical examination by a doctor or nurse?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than a year ago	70.0%	14
1 to 2 years ago	10.0%	2
More than 2 years ago	10.0%	2
Never	0.0%	0
Don't know	10.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>



**Q.58 When did you last have a dental examination by a dentist or hygienist?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than a year ago	85.0%	17
1 to 2 years ago	10.0%	2
More than 2 years ago	5.0%	1
Never	0.0%	0
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.59 Has there been any time over the past six months when you thought you should get medical care but you did not?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	25.0%	5
No	75.0%	15
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.60 What kept you from seeing a health professional when you really needed to? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Didn't know who to go and see	0.0%	0
Had no transportation	25.0%	1
Had nobody to go with me	25.0%	1
Parent or guardian would not go with me	0.0%	0
Difficult to make an appointment	0.0%	0
Afraid of what the doctor would say or do	50.0%	2
Thought the problem would go away	25.0%	1
Didn't want to talk about the problem	0.0%	0
Couldn't pay	50.0%	2
Don't know	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>4</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>16</b>

**Q.61 Has there been any time over the past six months when you thought you should see a mental health professional for a problem such as depression, substance abuse or anxiety, but did not?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	4
No	80.0%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.62 What kept you from seeing a mental health professional when you really needed to? (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Didn't know who to go and see	0.0%	0
Had no transportation	33.3%	1
Had nobody to go with me	0.0%	0
Parent or guardian would not go with me	0.0%	0
Difficult to make an appointment	66.7%	2
Afraid of what the doctor would say or do	100.0%	3
Thought the problem would go away	66.7%	2
Didn't want to talk about the problem	66.7%	2
Couldn't pay	33.3%	1
Don't know	33.3%	1
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>17</b>

**Q.63 Has there been any time over the past year when you thought you should visit a dentist but you did not?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	15.8%	3
No	84.2%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.64 What kept you from seeing a dentist when you really needed to? (Please check all that apply.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Didn't know who to go and see	0.0%	0
Had no transportation	0.0%	0
Had nobody to go with me	0.0%	0
Parent or guardian would not go with me	0.0%	0
Difficult to make an appointment	25.0%	1
Afraid of what the doctor would say or do	0.0%	0
Thought the problem would go away	25.0%	1
Didn't want to talk about the problem	0.0%	0
Couldn't pay	25.0%	1
Don't know	75.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>4</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>16</b>

**Q.65 Right now, do you have a bank, or credit union, account into which you can deposit and withdraw money? (HELP: This is an account that you can use anytime for all of your financial needs. This account is not in overdraft status or Chex systems.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	65.0%	13
No	35.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.66 (If yes) What kind of account do you have? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Savings Account	92.3%	12
Checking Account	69.2%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>13</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>7</b>

**Q.67 In the past month did you have enough money to cover your expenses (e.g. rent, bills, food, transportation, school supplies, child care, school loans, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.0%	11
No	45.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.68.How did you cover your expenses? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Got money from a job or found additional work	21.1%	4
Used money from student loans or scholarships	10.5%	2
Got money that I do NOT have to repay from a family member or friend	26.3%	5
Got money that I have to repay from a family member or friend	10.5%	2
Got a loan from a bank or credit union	0.0%	0
Got money from some other type of lender (e.g. payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	0.0%	0
Got money from stipend, organization or agency (Independent Living classes, speaking engagements, community agency, etc.)	10.5%	2
Used money that I saved for other purposes (savings be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union etc.)	10.5%	2
Sold some of my possessions	10.5%	2
Used my credit cards	0.0%	0
Overdrew my bank account (go negative)	0.0%	0
Used government resources (e.g. welfare, child support, TANF, WIC, SNAP, state funds, food stamps, etc.)	15.8%	3
I did not cover my expenses	31.6%	6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>19</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Q.69 What would you do if you had an emergency and needed \$500 dollars? (Please check all that apply) (HELP: Experts have found that \$500 is an amount of money that people often need in emergencies. Try to imagine what you would do if you needed \$500 in an emergency right now.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Get money from a job or found additional work	35.3%	6
Use money from student loans or scholarships	17.6%	3
Get money from a family member or friend	41.2%	7
Get a loan from a bank or credit union	29.4%	5
Get money from some other type of lender (e.g. payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	17.6%	3
Get money from stipend, organization or agency (Independent Living classes, speaking engagements, community agency, etc.)	11.8%	2
Use money that I saved for other purposes (savings be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union etc.)	17.6%	3
Sell some of my possessions	29.4%	5
Use my credit cards	0.0%	0
Overdraw my bank account (go negative)	5.9%	1
Use government resources (e.g. welfare, child support, TANF, WIC, SNAP, state funds, food stamps, etc.)	23.5%	4
I would not know what to do	29.4%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>17</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Q.70 Do you currently have any savings (savings can be money that you put away somewhere in your home, deposited in an account at a bank or credit union, asked a family member or friend to keep for you, etc.)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.0%	9
No	55.0%	11
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.71 Do you currently owe money?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	4
No	80.0%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>20</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

**Q.72 (If yes) Who do you owe money to? (Please check all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Family member or friend (e.g. foster parent; adoptive parent; biological parent; sibling; extended family member like a cousin, grandparent, or aunt, significant other, etc.)	66.7%	2
Credit card	0.0%	0
Student loans	33.3%	1
Home mortgage	0.0%	0
Bank or credit loan	0.0%	0
Car or other motor vehicle loan	0.0%	0
Student obligations (e.g. PELL grant, parking fees, activity fees, library fees, housing, etc.)	0.0%	0
Bank account (e.g., Chex systems, overdraft fees, etc.)	0.0%	0
Child support	0.0%	0
Other type of lender (e.g., payday loans, loan shark, pawn broker, etc.)	0.0%	0
Medical expense (e.g., insurance, hospital, doctor, co-pay bills, etc.)	0.0%	0
Court related costs (e.g. restitution, fees, etc.)	0.0%	0
Employer	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>17</b>

**Q, 73 Other Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?**

Answer Options	Response Count
	6
<b>answered question</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>14</b>

*“I’m very thankful to the CPS people because if it wasn’t for them, I’d be lost and homeless.”*

## Appendix 4: Summary of ADES-DCYF Policies and Services Supporting Transitioning Youth

Revised 09-2010	Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) aka Independent Living Program (ILP)	Independent Living Subsidy (ILSP)	Voluntary Foster Care for Young Adults 18-20	Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)	Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)	Re-Entry To Foster Care For Young Adults 18-20
Statutory Authority	P.L. 106-169, Sec 477 of the Social Security Act, title "John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)	A.R.S. 8-521, titled "Independent Living Program"	A.R.S. 46-134(A)(14) and 8-521.01	A.R.S. 8-521.01	P. L. 107-133	A.R.S. 8-521.01
Participant Qualifications	Any youth 16 years of age or older, in the custody of the ADES, in an out-of-home placement	Adjudicated dependent, or the subject of a dependency petition, and in the custody of ADES.  Youth placed in the custody of the Department through a Voluntary FC Agreement at age 17 or older, must wait until they turn 18, AND have signed an agreement for continued voluntary foster care (18-20).	Adjudicated dependent, subject of a dependency petition or placed voluntarily in the custody of the ADES <b>at age 18</b> and who desire to sign an <b>agreement</b> for continued care.	Former foster youth who were in out-of-home care <b>and</b> adjudicated dependent, the subject of a dependency petition <b>or</b> placed voluntarily in the custody of the ADES, a licensed child welfare or tribal foster care agency (any state's foster care program) when age 16, 17, or 18	Current and former foster youth who were in out-of-home care <b>and</b> adjudicated dependent, the subject of a dependency petition <b>or</b> placed voluntarily in the custody of the ADES, a licensed child welfare or tribal foster care agency when age 16, 17, or 18. Includes youth from any state's foster care system.	Former foster youth who were in out-of-home care <b>and</b> adjudicated dependent, the subject of a dependency petition <b>or</b> placed voluntarily in the custody of the ADES <b>when age 18</b> .
Client Age	16 -20 years of age	At least 17, to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday.	18 to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday.	18 to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday	16-21 <sup>st</sup> birthday. May extend to age 23 if receiving an ETV and making satisfactory progress when 21.	18 to 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday.
Placement	Any approved out of home living arrangement, including both licensed and unlicensed (i.e. relative, non-relative and ILSP) placements	Any approved (by case manager) out of home living arrangement.  <i>*For youth age 18 and older, the living arrangement may reflect the marital status (married or living as married). No roommate is automatically approved. All roommates must demonstrate the ability to pay an equal portion of the shared living expenses. Roommates who create barriers to self-</i>	Any approved out of home living arrangement, including both licensed and unlicensed (i.e. relative, non-relative and ILSP) placements.  Licensed, contracted placements must meet contract and related licensing requirements for having young adults age 18 and older living in their home/facility.	TILP contracts do not include residential care but young adults are assisted to identify safe, affordable housing and may be provided with some financial assistance for housing (and other) costs.	ETV funds may be used for living expenses for enrolled students, but does not provide an actual residential facility.	Any approved out of home living arrangement, including both licensed and unlicensed (i.e. relative, non-relative and ILSP) placements.  Licensed, contracted placements must meet contract and related licensing requirements for having young adults age 18 and older living in their home/facility.

Revised 09-2010	Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) aka Independent Living Program (ILP)	Independent Living Subsidy (ILSP)	Voluntary Foster Care for Young Adults 18-20	Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)	Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)	Re-Entry To Foster Care For Young Adults 18-20
		<p><i>sufficiency or risk of harm to the youth may not be approved.</i></p> <p>Client receives a monthly stipend to help cover the cost of monthly living expenses, currently (09/2010) a maximum of \$715/month.</p>				
Services/ Activities	Specialized case management, support and assistance relating to youth's completion of case plan goals, including but not limited to Life Skills Training, vocational/educational pursuits, counseling, and participation in enrichment activities such as the local/statewide Youth Advisory Board, Statewide Youth Conference	<p>ILSP is an out of home placement option for youth <b>in foster care</b> under the supervision of the Department.</p> <p>A client receives up to \$715/month to assist with rent, food, clothing, and other living expenses, in lieu of any other foster care maintenance payment.</p>	Same as AYAP/ILP.	<p>TILP is an <b>aftercare</b> program of services and support for <b>former</b> foster youth who are now age 18-20.</p> <p>Through an Individual Service Plan, transitional living support and services is delivered through community-based contract services and includes case management as well as training, support and assistance (including financial assistance) with education, employment, vocational training, counseling, and housing related service plan goals.</p>	Funding for accredited post-secondary education and training programs.	Same as AYAP/ILP.

**Source of Data:** Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF), Document provided by Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, 1.6.2013.