FOSTERING
ADVOCATES
Youth. Speak. Change. ARIZONA

2015

Environmental Scan

Children's Action Alliance

Fostering Advocates of Arizona
Environmental Scan

Table of Contents

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.*
B. *Past efforts and future plans by the agency include services and supports to older youth in foster care.*
C. *The agency is committed to participate and champion planning activities for implementation of the core strategies.*
D. *The agency commits resources, financial and/or in-kind, to support implementation of the core strategies.*

Starting in November 2013, Arizona's child welfare system experienced more than the usual challenges wihich led to significant change resulting from the revelation that 6,500 reports of child abuse and neglect were not investigated. At this time, Governor Jan Brewer appointed a CARE team that was charged to investigate these reports. In January 2014, the Governor announced that she would work with the legislature to create a separate child welfare agency. In the meantime, the Division of Children, Youth and Families (renamed the Division of Child Safety and Family Services) within the Department of Economic Security, would report directly to her; she named Charles Flanagan as its director. At the end of May 2014, a Special Legislative Session was called and the Department of Child Safety (DCS) was created. Charles Flanagan was named the new Director and his leadership team continued the partnership with Children's Action Alliance and other community partners to strengthen the supports and practices for older transitioning youth. As a result of the 2014 elections, Governor Doug Ducey took office in January 2015, and named a new DCS leadership team with Director Greg McKay. The change in top leadership as well as the constant turn-over in many management and direct service staff positions has not yet led to stability for this new agency.

In spite of these challenges, CAA has actively worked to strengthen effective partnerships with the newest DCS leadership team as well as other state agencies, community providers, stakeholder groups and advocates. CAA is able to enhance these collaborations by proudly serving as the lead organization for Fostering Advocates Arizona (FAAZ). FAAZ has a 25 member Community Advisory Board comprised of members reflecting a diverse, cross-section of community agencies and businesses that can help garner both public and private resources. In addition, FAAZ facilitates the Young Adult Leadership Board made up of 12 young people who are both currently and formerly in foster care. CAA provides staff, support and resources for the work of this important, collaborative project.

B. Over the past 30 years, Arizona has passed legislation and established policies and program components to support youth transitioning from foster care – presently the responsibility of the Department of Child Safety. . CAA had led many of these efforts. Over the past year, CAA continued to demonstrate its focus on improving outcomes for older youth in care through FAAZ. CAA collaborated with the national non-profit Foster Care To Success, Arizona's public community college and university staff, and the DCS to develop procedures to administer the Arizona Foster Care Tuition Waiver Pilot Program (SB 1208, Laws of 2013). CAA contracted with Foster Care To Success to develop an electronic portal system for universities and community colleges to track student eligibility for the Arizona Tuition Waiver and the DCS administered federal Education and Training Voucher Program.

In March 2015, CAA successfully advocated for and worked with Representative Kate Brophy McGee on the passage of HB 2022, a modification to the Arizona Tuition Waiver Program that will clearly allow student eligibility up to age 23.

CAA also convened the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Department of Economic Security (DES) and DCS staff to advocate for better practices and policies that would streamline Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) enrollment (i.e. Medicaid for foster youth up to age 26). Beginning accomplishments included:, the agencies eliminated steps in the application process that required manual paperwork and also updated the electronic application to improve the system's ability to confirm documentation of foster care status rather than requiring this of the young adult applicants. The agencies also each named points of contact who will communicate with each other about the lists of foster youth turning 18 and resolve any issues in their transition health insurance enrollment. CAA created and distributed a Health Care Toolkit that included informational brochures and commonly asked questions and answers about YATI coverage so young adults and the many community agencies who work with them will have the tools to promote enrollment. A partnership was formed with Kids Health Link to train community providers on YATI and matched agencies that serve transitioning youth with specific community agencies who assist people in health insurance applications so young adults can get direct and personal assistance.

Along with legislative action and collaboration with State agencies to support young adults, CAA worked with DCS providers to increase awareness about the services and supports available to foster care youth beyond age 18. These services are designed to help young people successfully transition to adulthood through six key program components. These program components include:

- Arizona Tuition Waiver - Covers certain school fees and tuition not included in other grants up to age 23.

- Independent Living Program (ILP) - Young adults work with a DCS Specialist and have access to an Arizona Children's Association Independent Living Specialist as they transition to their new life.

- Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP) - Provides a monthly allowance to eligible youth to help cover living costs while young adults transition to independence.

- Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) - Young adults work with a DCS contract provider, Arizona Children's Association, on specific skill development and transition goals. If young adults want to re-enter foster care or enroll in the Independent Living Subsidy Program (ISLP), they must go through TILP first.

- Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV) - Helps with higher education expenses for current or former foster care young adults up to age 21. DCS has the option to extend ETV funding to age 23.

- Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) is an Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) plan that provides no-cost or low cost health coverage.

In February 2015, CAA launched fosteringadvocatesarizona.org. The website was designed in partnership with the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board and the Community Advisory Board. It serves as a resource hub for young people who are currently in foster care and those who have left. The site was intentionally designed for ease of navigation and to connect young adults to the various community service providers in the community providing transitioning support.

C. DCS has affirmed their commitments to the FAAZ Initiative through their continued involvement on the Community Advisory Board, represented by Beverlee Kroll, DCS Permanency and Youth Services Manager. With a whole new leadership team at DCS, CAA and FAAZ will continue to engage DCS Executive Team members in discussions surrounding the policies and practices related to youth transitioning out of foster care. Positive developments include monthly meetings with the DCS Director (both former and current) and their attendance at CAA's Child Welfare Advisory Committee meetings. Also, a positive conversation was held with the DCS Deputy Director in April 2015 regarding the fiscal impact study to determine the feasibility of drawing down Title IV-E dollars for extended care in Arizona.

D. DCS has continued their commitment to provide in-kind services to support the implementation of the core strategies for the FAAZ Initiative. This in-kind assistance includes involvement of key DCS staff on the Community Advisory Board, as well as access to needed data. Additionally, DCS 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.

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

A. and B. As the lead agency, CAA has a longstanding history of more than 26 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. FAAZ is integrated within CAA and will continue to support the collaborative community and advocacy efforts of the Initiative. Our work in 2015 will focus on increasing access to education, employment, family connections, financial capability, health care, housing and social capital by brokering services and supports from across systems of care.

Community engagement is essential to the success the Initiative. The Community Advisory Board along with the Young Adult Leadership Board guides FAAZ and helps implement these five core strategies. The FAAZ Community Advisory Board is comprised of a diverse group of members from the public and private sectors working to improve the outcomes for these young people. Members and the focused involvement include:

- Department of Child Safety (DCS) - advocate for sound policies and practices related to youth transitioning out of foster care. Work to improve access and utilization of services, particularly relating to independent living.

- Maricopa County Juvenile Court - advocate for sound policies and practices relating to young adults and the juvenile justice system relating to prevention and outcome of juvenile offenders.

- Arizona Community Foundation - advocate for sound community giving practices as it relates to child welfare issues and the utilization of funding that supports positive, sound, and sustainable outcomes for young adults in foster care.

- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care - advocate for sound policies and practices relating to young adults health care and behavioral health services, including access to integrated care, renewal of coverage, outreach, and enrollment.

- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) - advocate for sound policies and practices relating to supportive housing for young adults transitioning from care. Collaborate to

increase access of affordable, safe, reliable, and convenient housing with coordinated services to ensure a smooth and supportive transition to independent living.

- Arizona Children's Association (AzCA) - advocate for sound policies and practices relating to quality child welfare and behavioral health services and programs. Specifically working to address the need of young adults aging out of foster care through the Independent Living and Transitional Independent Living Programs.

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) - advocate for sound policies and practices relating to financial literacy for young adults who have experienced foster care. Partner with IRC to conduct the financial literacy trainings, participant coaching, match-savings activities, and data collection associated with the Opportunity Passport™ program.

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

A. Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capital and in the community. CAA's mission is to improve children's health, education, and security. We pursue our mission through research, policy development, media campaigns, advocacy, and action.

B. As the lead agency of FAAZ, CAA has established their ability to convene multiple partners from a range of sectors with the common goal of improving outcomes for youth who are transitioning to adulthood from foster care. Through these partnerships, activities for engagement of young people in, or exiting from, foster care have been established.

The Young Adult Leadership Board which is comprised of young adults who have experienced foster care continues to play an instrumental part in the work, operational development, and direction of FAAZ. The board meets monthly to discuss and provide insight on the direction and effectiveness of the initiatives key priorities.

In 2014, with technical assistance from JCYOI, CAA hosted the FAAZ Strategic Story Sharing and Advocacy Training for the Young Adult Leadership Board. Through this process, the young adults were trained on various strategies and techniques including building a policy agenda, strategic story sharing, and developing key messaging while utilizing data for support. Many of the young adults have spoken at community events, panel discussions and committee hearings providing testimony regarding proposed legislation. As a result of this training, the young adults were able to strategically share their stories utilizing their increased skills and confidence.

The Young Adult Leadership Board played an active role in the development of the FAAZ website launched in February 2015. From the first stages of development, the young adults provided their insight on the language, context, and design of the website to better ensure its usefulness and appeal to the target audience.

Currently, the Young Adult Leadership Board is establishing their advocacy priorities in preparation for their work plan and advocacy agenda. As representatives of the foster care community, these priorities reflect the priorities of other young adults in care.

To increase the communication and collaboration between young adults and the public and private sectors that serve them, CAA will host the FAAZ Youth-Adult Partnership Retreat in summer 2015. JCYOI will facilitate the two-day retreat and participants will include FAAZ members of the Community Advisory Board, Young Adult Leadership Board and CAA staff.

C. CAA has secured the financial support of funding partners including Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Arizona Community Foundation. Future secured funds will continue to support the collaborative community and advocacy efforts of FAAZ including Opportunity Passport.

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.*
> 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*

A. CAA has a history of working collaboratively with key partner agencies to collect data and has 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, grand families 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 the national Annie E. Casey Foundation 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. CAA also tracks specific metrics of the child welfare system in Arizona, and these are updated regularly and available on our CAA website. CAA will continue to work with FAAZ Community Advisory Board Member and DCS employee, Beverlee Kroll, Permanency and Youth Services Manager, on data collection. CAA will also establish a FAAZ Data team in fall 2015.

B. Continued development of FAAZ will build on previous work of the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative, CAA, DCS 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 and utilization of services and programs for youth transitioning from foster care. Along with challenges and opportunities identified by CAA, DCS, FAAZ Community Advisory Board, and the Young Adult Leadership Board, CAA utilized data from the Environmental Scan to reflect the key priorities in the FAAZ Implementation Plan for 2015. Some example priorities include:

- Youth voice and participation will increase at all levels of policy and program decision-making led by the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board that was formed in 2014.

- More transitioning youth will be knowledgeable about scholarships, education training vouchers and tuition waivers available for post-secondary education.

- More transitioning youth from ages 18-26 will have enrollment assistance and will maintain available health insurance coverage through AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid program.

- More youth will be supported by extended care programs and services such as the Independent Living Program, Transitional Independent Living Supports and the Independent Living Subsidy Program.

Youth and providers (i.e. foster families, relatives, congregate facilities, independent living program staff, etc) will have critical information on transitioning services available to help young adults achieve their goals through the FAAZ resource website combined with marketing outreach for the website.

B. DEMOGRAPHICS

5. *Define the current target area(s) of the local initiative (geographically and overall population count). Please include a map.*

Fostering Advocates of Arizona will initially focus on youth transitioning from foster care in Maricopa County, Arizona's largest county and metropolitan area, eventually expanding statewide. In 2014, approximately 6,731,484 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.
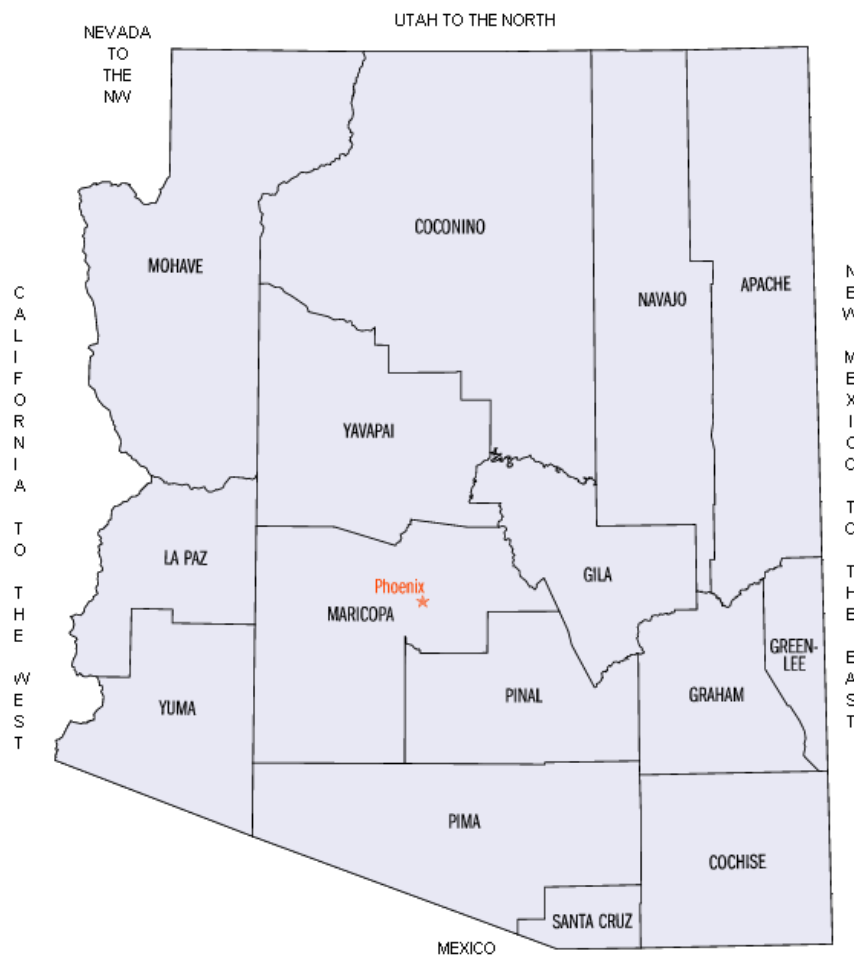
Source of Data: Arizona State Government website, About Arizona (az.gov) United States Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 (NST-EST2014-01)

According to 2013 population estimates, 60% of the state's population, 6,634,997, resides in Maricopa County.

ARIZONA POPULATION 2013		
State/County	**Population**	**Percent of State**
United States (2010-2013)*	316,497,531	N/A
Arizona	6,572,232	2.0% of US
Apache	71,934	1.1%
Cochise	129,473	2.0%
Coconino	136,539	2.1%
Gila	53,053	.8%
Graham	37,482	.6%
Greenlee	9,049	.1%
La Paz	20,324	.3%
Maricopa	**4,009,412**	**60.4%**
Mohave	203,030	3.1.%
Navajo	107,322	1.6%
Pima	996,554	15.0%
Pinal	389,350	6.0%
Santa Cruz	46,768	.7%
Yavapai	215,133	3.2%
Yuma	201,201	3.0%

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

Source of Data: Arizona State Government website, About Arizona (www.az.gov).
AZ Population Projections 2012 to 2050, (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, 2014.

6. *Describe the population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-m below. Please feel free to copy and paste published data below, or complete the table below. Additional rows may be inserted in the table.*

Characteristics of State's Population

A. Age breakdown

ARIZONA POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (PERCENT OF TOTAL 2013)													
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**
Arizona	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**13%**	**13%**	**12%**	**10%**	**6%**	**4%**	**6,572,232**
Apache	7%	8%	9%	8%	7%	6%	11%	12%	13%	10%	6%	3%	72,395
Cochise	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	11%	11%	13%	12%	8%	4%	131,688
Coconino	6%	7%	6%	9%	12%	7%	12%	11%	13%	9%	4%	2%	135,446
Gila	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	8%	10%	15%	16%	11%	6%	53,724
Graham	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%	13%	11%	11%	9%	5%	3%	37,678
Greenlee	7%	8%	8%	9%	6%	6%	12%	12%	14%	10%	5%	3%	8,515
La Paz	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%	9%	13%	19%	18%	6%	20,919
Maricopa	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**7%**	**14%**	**13%**	**12%**	**9%**	**5%**	**4%**	**3,933,712**
Mohave	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	9%	11%	15%	16%	12%	5%	204,912
Navajo	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	11%	11%	13%	11%	7%	3%	109,028
Pima	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	7%	12%	12%	13%	11%	7%	4%	998,325
Pinal	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	15%	12%	11%	11%	7%	3%	395,624
Santa Cruz	7%	8%	9%	8%	6%	5%	10%	12%	13%	11%	6%	3%	49,332
Yavapai	4%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	9%	10%	15%	17%	11%	6%	213,247
Yuma	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%	6%	11%	11%	11%	9%	7%	4%	207,688

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

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 2013)													
	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	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	6.7%	7.2%	6.8%	12.9%	13.3%	13.8%	10.3%	5.8%	3.7%	316,128,839

Source of Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division , Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipals: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 Population Estimates.

B. *Gender breakdown*

ARIZONA POPULATION BY GENDER (PERCENT OF TOTAL 2013)			
Statewide/County	**Males**	**Females**	**Population**
United States *(2013)	49.2%	50.8%	316,128,839
Arizona	49.8%	50.2%	**6,572,232**
Apache	49.8%	50.2%	72,395
Cochise	50.8%	49.2%	131,688
Coconino	49.6%	50.4%	135,446
Gila	49.6%	50.4%	53,724
Graham	52.9%	47.1%	37,678
Greenlee	52.1%	47.9%	8,515
La Paz	51.0%	49.0%	20,919
Maricopa	**49.6%**	**50.4%**	**3,933,712**
Mohave	50.3%	49.7%	204,912
Navajo	49.9%	50.1%	109,028
Pima	49.2%	50.8%	998,325
Pinal	52.4%	47.6%	395,624
Santa Cruz	47.8%	52.2%	49,332
Yavapai	49.0%	51.0%	213,247
Yuma	50.4%	49.6%	207,688

Source of Data: AZ Population Projections 2013, (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 2013 American Community Survey, SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1-Year Estimates

ARIZONA POPULATION AGES 14-25 BY GENDER PERCENT OF TOTAL 2013					
Age	**Male**	**Males Percent of Total**	**Female**	**Females Percent of Total**	**Total Population Ages 14-25**
14	45,987	50.8%	44,450	49%	90,437
15	45,907	51.2%	43,769	49%	89,676
16	46,071	51.2%	43,887	49%	89,958
17	45,935	51.3%	43,678	49%	89,613
18	46,847	51.7%	43,792	48%	90,639
19	46,578	51.8%	43,425	48%	90,003
20	46,832	51.6%	43,894	48%	90,726
21	49,180	51.7%	45,938	48%	95,118
22	50,727	51.2%	48,300	49%	99,027
23	51,256	51.2%	48,808	49%	100,064
24	48,204	51.2%	45,894	49%	94,098
25	46,190	51.5%	43,547	49%	89,737
Total	569,714	51.4%	539,382	49%	1,109,096

Source of Data: US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013.

C. _Race/Ethnicity breakdown_

ARIZONA POPULATION SHARE BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN 2013												
	NON-HISPANICS						HISPANICS					
Statewide/County	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total
Arizona	**56%**	**4%**	**3%**	**4%**	**2%**	**69%**	**16%**	**0%**	**0%**	**1%**	**14%**	**31%**
Apache	20%	0%	0%	72%	2%	94%	3%	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%
Cochise	57%	4%	2%	1%	3%	66%	21%	0%	0%	0%	12%	34%
Coconino	54%	1%	1%	27%	2%	86%	7%	0%	0%	1%	6%	14%
Gila	64%	0%	1%	15%	1%	81%	11%	0%	0%	1%	6%	19%
Graham	52%	2%	1%	14%	1%	69%	20%	0%	0%	1%	10%	31%
Greenlee	47%	1%	1%	2%	1%	52%	29%	0%	0%	1%	18%	48%
La Paz	61%	1%	1%	11%	2%	75%	7%	0%	0%	2%	15%	25%
Maricopa	**57%**	**5%**	**4%**	**2%**	**2%**	**69%**	**15%**	**0%**	**0%**	**1%**	**15%**	**31%**
Mohave	78%	1%	1%	2%	2%	84%	8%	0%	0%	0%	8%	16%
Navajo	43%	1%	1%	43%	2%	89%	5%	0%	0%	1%	4%	11%
Pima	54%	3%	3%	2%	2%	64%	20%	0%	0%	1%	15%	36%
Pinal	57%	4%	2%	5%	2%	71%	14%	0%	0%	1%	14%	29%
Santa Cruz	15%	0%	1%	0%	0%	16%	58%	0%	0%	0%	25%	84%
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 2013, (Medium Series) Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics, TABLE 6: POPULATION SHARE BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN.

ARIZONA POPULATION AGES 15-19 BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN PERCENT OF TOTAL 2013												
	NON-HISPANICS (59%)						HISPANICS (41%)					
ARIZONA	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Other	Total
Ages 15-19	74%	10%	6%	9%	1%	277,426	89%	3%	2%	5%	0%	193,406

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

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, 2013.

D. *Languages spoken at home*

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
LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME BY ARIZONA CHILDREN AGES 5 YEARS AND OLDER PERCENT OF TOTAL 2009-2013							
United States	79.3%	20.7%	12.9%	3.7%	3.3%	0.9%	291,484,482
Arizona	**73.2%**	**26.8%**	**20.4%**	**2%**	**1.9%**	**2.5%**	**6,033,147**
Apache	43.0%	57.0%	3.4%	0.5%	0.4%	52.7%	66,108
Cochise	72.6%	27.4%	23.8%	2.0%	1.4%	0.2%	122,667
Coconino	76.5%	23.5%	7.5%	1.1%	1.0%	13.9%	126,061
Gila	85.6%	14.4%	8.2%	0.7%	0.2%	5.3%	50,237
Graham	79.9%	20.1%	13.8%	0.5%	0.4%	5.3%	34,087
Greenlee	75.7%	24.3%	23.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	7,996
La Paz	81.2%	18.8%	17.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	19,457
Maricopa	**73.5%**	**26.5%**	**20.3%**	**2.5%**	**2.3%**	**1.2%**	**3,610,510**
Mohave	89.1%	10.9%	8.7%	1.1%	0.7%	0.5%	191,165
Navajo	63.2%	36.8%	6.0%	0.5%	0.4%	29.9%	98,921
Pima	71.5%	28.5%	23.5%	1.9%	1.9%	1.2%	925,414
Pinal	78.1%	21.9%	18.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	351,135
Santa Cruz	23.1%	76.9%	76.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	43,508
Yavapai	89.6%	10.4%	7.9%	1.6%	0.4%	0.6%	201,991
Yuma	48.8%	51.2%	49.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	183,890

Source of Data: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 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*

Statewide/ County	All Families	Families with Children Under 18 Years	All Individuals	All Individuals under 18 Years	All Individuals 18-64	Individuals 65 Years+
ARIZONA POPULATION LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL 2009-2013						
United States	11.3%	17.8%	15.4%	21.6%	14.3%	9.4%
Arizona	13.0%	20.5%	17.9%	25.5%	17.0%	8.3%
Apache	29.2%	37.3%	36.2%	44.8%	33.7%	26.0%
Cochise	12.5%	20.4%	17.1%	24.5%	16.1%	10.5%
Coconino	15.5%	23.5%	23.0%	28.1%	22.8%	11.6%
Gila	13.4%	27.2%	21.6%	35.9%	22.2%	7.4%
Graham	16.8%	23.5%	22.3%	28.9%	21.2%	11.0%
Greenlee	12.2%	16.0%	16.0%	19.4%	14.9%	13.6%
La Paz	13.8%	23.7%	19.4%	33.7%	22.8%	7.2%
Maricopa	**12.2%**	**19.1%**	**16.7%**	**23.9%**	**15.4%**	**7.6%**
Mohave	13.1%	26.5%	19.4%	31.7%	20.2%	7.3%
Navajo	24.7%	35.4%	30.3%	40.6%	28.9%	14.4%
Pima	13.3%	21.5%	19.2%	26.8%	19.2%	8.5%
Pinal	10.9%	17.1%	15.6%	22.1%	14.8%	7.6%
Santa Cruz	21.3%	29.2%	26.3%	35.2%	23.3%	19.3%
Yavapai	10.8%	20.4%	15.8%	22.3%	17.9%	6.3%
Yuma	16.7%	25.0%	20.2%	28.9%	18.4%	11.7%

Source of Data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 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. <u>Income level</u>

This section was retracted as a result of a publishing error. Please contact CAA for specific information relating to this demographic.

G. *Unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26th birthday)*
   NOTE: Arizona data available for Young People ages 16-24.

ARIZONA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AGE 16 YEARS AND OLDER FOR 2013			
Statewide/County	**Unemployment Rate Population 16* years and older**	**Unemployment rate for Youth 16-19****	**Unemployment Rate for Youth 20-24****
United States (2012)	8.1%	24.0%	22.3%
Arizona	**8.2%**	**25.3%**	**14.6%**
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
Maricopa	**7.1%**	**N**	**N**
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.

Note: Report for 2014 is not published. There is currently no data on United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2012.

H. *High school graduation rate of young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26th birthday)*

ARIZONA POPULATION HIGHEST LEVEL of EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR AGES 18-24 2009-2013				
Statewide/County	**Less than High School Graduate**	**High School Diploma or GED only)**	**Some College or Associate's Degree**	**Bachelor's Degree or Higher**
United States	15.6%	29.5%	45.5%	9.4%
Arizona	**18.7%**	**30.7%**	**43.7%**	**6.9%**
Apache	26.4%	37.5%	35.1%	1.0%
Cochise	18.3%	35.3%	41.7%	4.7%
Coconino	9.9%	24.9%	57.5%	7.7%
Gila	25.3%	42.9%	30.7%	1.1%
Graham	22.0%	31.7%	44.8%	1.5%
Greenlee	15.3%	27.8%	55.6%	1.3%
La Paz	22.5%	42.1%	33.9%	1.5%
Maricopa	**17.9%**	**30.9%**	**43.3%**	**8.0%**
Mohave	26.3%	38.9%	31.7%	3.1%
Navajo	32.3%	34.3%	32.7%	0.7%
Pima	16.6%	26.4%	49.1%	8.0%
Pinal	27.8%	36.1%	34.0%	2.0%
Santa Cruz	29.7%	25.0%	42.8%	2.5%
Yavapai	23.0%	31.4%	41.6%	4.0%
Yuma	20.4%	34.8%	42.3%	2.6%

Source of Data: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 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. Martin 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.

ARIZONA POPULATION HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 18-24					
2011-2013					
Statewide/County	Young People 18-24 WITHOUT Health Insurance		Young People 18-24 WITH Health Insurance		Total Population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Young People 18-24
United States	7,491,423	25%	23,032,161	75%	30,523,584
Arizona	**184,999**	**30%**	**437,630**	**70%**	**622,629**
Apache	3,213	41%	4,568	59%	7,781
Cochise	2,086	24%	5,828	66%	8,854
Coconino	6,432	25%	19,272	75%	25,704
Gila	1,617	41%	2,309	59%	3,926
Graham	923	24%	2,897	76%	3,820
Greenlee	Not available				
La Paz	218	24%	675	76%	893
Maricopa	**114,075**	**30%**	**267,238**	**70%**	**381,313**
Mohave	4,515	36%	8,179	64%	12,694
Navajo	3,289	33%	6,643	67%	9,932
Pima	26,936	24%	86,835	76%	113,771
Pinal	8,659	31%	19,144	69%	27,803
Santa Cruz	1335	30%	3,097	70%	4,432
Yavapai	4,351	30%	10,280	70%	14,631
Yuma	7,230	36%	13,125	64%	20,355

Source of Data: US Census Bureau Table B27001HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS BY SEX BY AGE - Universe: Civilian non-institutionalized population 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

J. Housing vacancy rate

ARIZONA HOUSING VACANCY RATE 2009-2013			
Statewide/County	**Total Housing Units**	**Vacant Housing Units**	**Occupied Housing Units**
United States	132,057,804	12.5%	87.5%
Arizona	**2,859,768**	**17.1%**	**82.9%**
Apache	32,541	41.4%	58.6%
Cochise	59,484	17.3%	82.7%
Coconino	63,679	27.5%	72.5%
Gila	32,749	37.1%	62.9%
Graham	13,126	16.0%	84.0%
Greenlee	4,381	995	3,386
La Paz	16,062	36.4%	63.6%
Maricopa	**1,648,392**	**14.4%**	**85.6%**
Mohave	111,051	27.8%	72.2%
Navajo	57,046	39.8%	60.2%
Pima	442,960	13.3%	86.7%
Pinal	160,903	23.1%	76.9%
Santa Cruz	18,051	16.5%	83.5%
Yavapai	110,838	17.6%	82.4%
Yuma	88,505	20.8%	79.2%

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: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

K. *Average rental rate for a two-bedroom rental*

ARIZONA FAIR MARKET RENT 2013		
County	**1 Bedroom Apartment (Monthly)**	**2 Bedroom Apartment (Monthly)**
Apache	$463	$626
Cochise	$569	$712
Coconino	$852	$1066
Gila	$541	$729
Graham	$546	$650
Greenlee	$463	$626
La Paz	$500	$677
Maricopa	**$748**	**$925**
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 1FMRs 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.

L. *Average home price*

ARIZONA MEDIAN HOME VALUE 2009-2013	
State/County	**Median Value of Owner Occupied Unit**
United States	$176,700
Arizona	$165,100
Apache	$83,100
Cochise	$146,200
Coconino	$220,400
Gila	$134,000
Graham	$122,200
Greenlee	$81,000
La Paz	$88,800
Maricopa	**$176,500**
Mohave	$133,900
Navajo	$112,200
Pima	$167,500
Pinal	$120,200
Santa Cruz	$140,000
Yavapai	$184,100
Yuma	$118,000

Source of Data: US Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey Selected Housing Characteristics 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 25 (include youth up to their 26th birthday) that are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness.*
NOTE: Arizona data available for youth 18-24

ARIZONA YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 2013						
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**	**Number**	**Percent of Total Single Adults in Families**	
Maricopa	947	10.4%	9,084	670	22%	3,049

Source of Data: Homeless in Arizona 2013 Annual Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Appendices, HMIS Data, December 2013.

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. HUD has defined youth as between the ages of 18 and 24 (Homeless in Arizona 2013 Annual Report, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Appendices, HMIS Data, December 2013).

7. Describe the child welfare population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-k below. Please feel free to copy and paste published data below, or complete the table below. Additional rows may be inserted in the table.

Data Limitations

Data for the following section is based on published reports by the Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS). Child Protective Services, now DCS, became a separate entity from the Department of Economic Security in 2014. Four reports published by DCS-DCYF provide the most current data describing Arizona's foster care population. These reports include:

- Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS), *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 Child Safety (ADCS)*, Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report October 1, 2012-March 31, 2013 and April 1, 2013 - September 30, 2013.*
- Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS)*, Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report October 1,2013-March 31,2014 and April 1, 2014- September 30, 2014*
- Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS-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*.
- Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS-DCYF) Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report

The majority of data collected reflects reports for 2012 and 2013 utilizing three different time periods. These include:

- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY 2012 & 2013) - October 1, 2011-September 30, 2013
- State Fiscal Year (SFY 2012 & 2013) - July 1, 2011- June 30, 2013
- Calendar Year (CY 2012 & 2013) - January 1, 2012-December 31, 2013

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 ADCS custody on their 18th birthday. The most current and appropriate data from the ADCS-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 1998-2013	
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 - Sept ember30, 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
October 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013	14,314
April 1, 2013- September 30, 2013	15,037
October 1, 2013-March 31, 2014	15,751

April 1, 2014-September 30, 2014	16,990

Note: US Children in Foster Care FY 13 (September 30, 2013) = 402,378 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), AFCARS data.

B. _Number of children in foster care by age_

ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE 0-18 AND OLDER ON 9.30.2014		
Age	**Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care**	**Percent of Total**
Under 1 year	1,394	8.1%
1	1,482	8.6%
2	1,203	7.0%
3	1,042	6.1%
4	985	5.8%
5	981	5.8%
6	1,028	6.1%
7	913	5.4%
8	865	5.1%
9	810	4.8%
10	664	3.9%
11	587	3.5%
12	592	3.5%
13	601	3.5%
14	654	3.9%
15	724	4.3%

16	811	4.8%
17	912	5.4%
18 and older	742	4.4%
Total	16,990	100.0%

Source of Data: *Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2014-September 30, 2014 p. 45*

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

**ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
BY ETHNICITY
ON 9.30.2014**
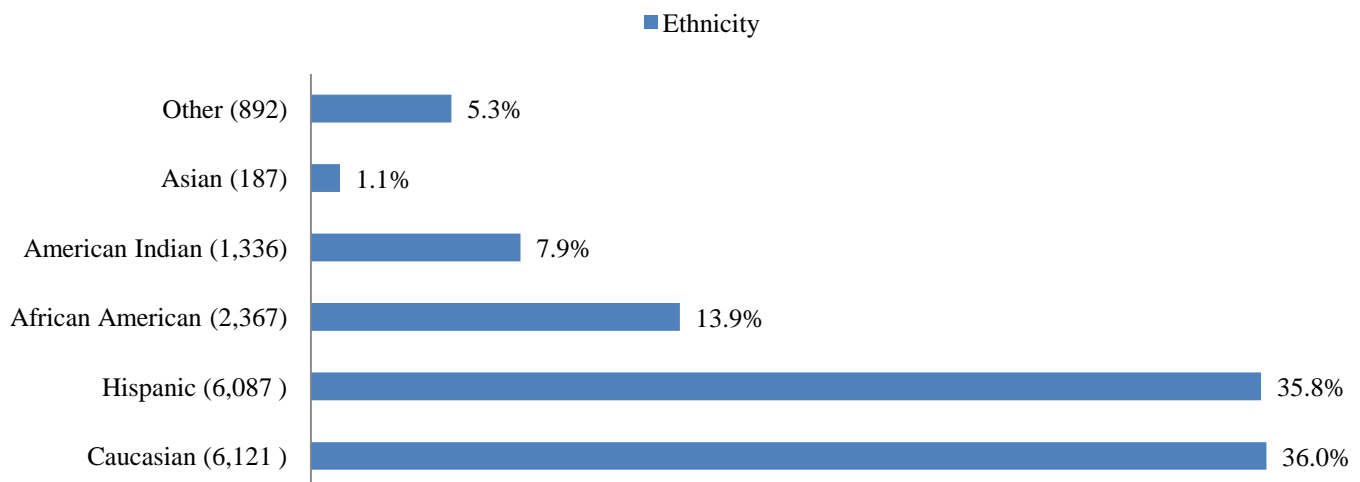
Source of Data: Arizona *Department of Economic Security (ADES) Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2014 - September 30, 2014 P. 43 (All ages).*

E. *Number of young people in foster care age 14 and older (up to 26th birthday, by language spoken*
  Source of Data: not available in ADES published reports.

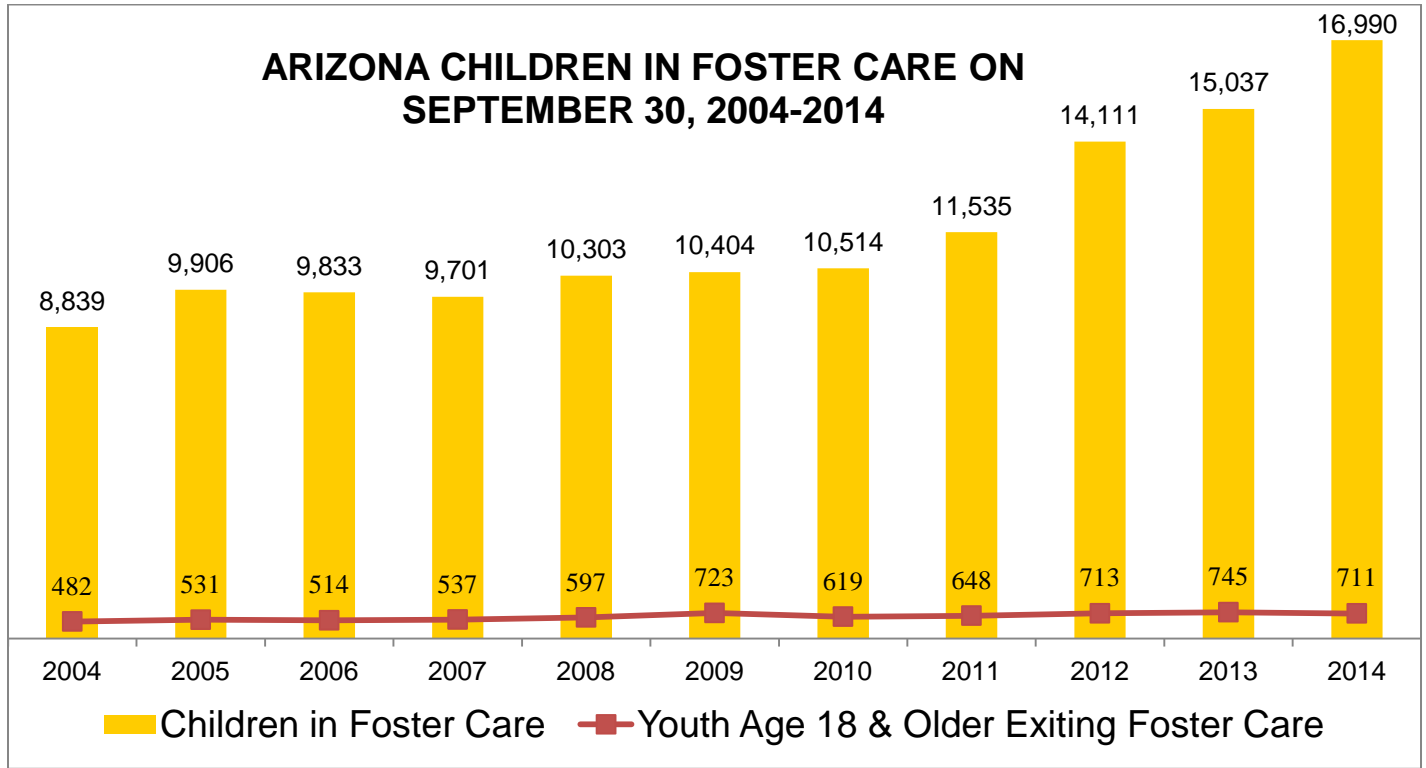F. *Number of children in foster care, by placement type*

TABLE 33
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE AND AGE

	RELATIVE	FAMILY FOSTER	GROUP HOME	RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT[6]	INDEPENDENT LIVING	RUNAWAY / ABSCONDED[7]	TRIAL HOME VISIT	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
UNDER 1	648	722	1	20	0	2	1	1,394	8.1%
1	747	707	6	21	0	0	1	1,482	8.6%
2	623	553	7	17	0	2	1	1,203	7.0%
3	571	442	15	12	0	1	1	1,042	6.1%
4	544	402	12	23	0	3	1	985	5.8%
5	557	394	14	13	0	1	2	981	5.8%
6	539	427	40	21	0	0	1	1,028	6.1%
7	514	335	40	19	0	0	5	913	5.4%
8	463	337	45	19	0	0	1	865	5.1%
9	424	300	55	29	0	0	2	810	4.8%
10	365	224	59	13	0	0	3	664	3.9%
11	268	222	74	23	0	0	0	587	3.5%
12	251	206	86	45	0	2	2	592	3.5%
13	228	192	124	50	0	6	1	601	3.5%
14	222	199	165	61	0	7	0	654	3.9%
15	205	182	204	92	0	40	1	724	4.3%
16	196	182	241	101	0	87	4	811	4.8%
17	144	197	310	137	7	110	7	912	5.4%
18 AND OLDER	27	61	77	100	445	30	2	742	4.4%
TOTAL	7,536	6,284	1,575	816	452	291	36	16,990	100.0%
% OF TOTAL	44.3%	37.0%	9.3%	4.8%	2.7%	1.7%	0.2%	100.0%	

Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report April 1, 2014-September 30, 2014*.P. 45.

For youth ages 17, 18 and older, they are more likely to live in group homes or residential treatment than with a relative or foster family. [6] This category includes shelter, detention, and hospital placement types. [7] This category includes children whose parents absconded with the child(ren) during this reporting period.

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

ARIZONA CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2004-2014

Year	Children in Foster Care	Youth Age 18 & Older Exiting Foster Care
2004	8,839	482
2005	9,906	531
2006	9,833	514
2007	9,701	537
2008	10,303	597
2009	10,404	723
2010	10,514	619
2011	11,535	648
2012	14,111	713
2013	15,037	745
2014	16,990	711

Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES-DCYF) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports* (2003-2014) compiled by the Children's Action Alliance, reporting period October 1-September 30.

NOTE: Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2004-2014. Youth Age 18 & Older Exiting Foster Care reflect the number of youth exiting care during a 12 month period ending on September 30, 2004-2014 for Reason: Reaching Age of Majority and includes youth 18 & older exiting extended voluntary foster care.

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	28.2%	21.7%	37.5%	25.0%	36.3%	30.5%	39.0%	39.2%	36.8%
Hispanic	45.3%	13.1%	47.5%	25.0%	34.5%	39.1%	39.5%	33.2%	36.3%
African American	7.5%	8.7%	10.0%	0.0%	14.4%	21.7%	11.9%	16.8%	13.3%
American Indian	11.1%	39.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	6.7%	8.2%	7.6%
Asian	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	.5%	0.9%	.8%
Other	7.5%	16.0%	5.0%	50.0%	6.6%	8.7%	2.4%	1.7%	5.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.00%	100.0%

CHILDREN EXITING DES CUSTODY BY REASON AND RACE AND ETHNICITY FOR PERIOD 4.1.2014 TO 9.30.2014 (6 Months)

Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families, Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report for April 1, 2014 - September 30, 2014. pps 52-60 *(All ages).*

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (AYAP) AND EDUCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT ENROLLMENT CY 2013 (12 MONTHS)

County by Residence	Number	Percent
Apache	4	0%
Cochise	9	1%
Coconino	21	1%
Gila	9	1%
Graham	4	0%
Greenlee	1	0%
La Paz	1	0%
Maricopa	**943**	**63%**
Mohave	32	2%
Navajo	18	1%
Pima	285	19%
Pinal	88	6%
Santa Cruz	1	0%
Yavapai	48	3%
Yuma	19	1%
Total	1,483	100%

Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families (ADES-CYF), *Independent Living Program/Education 2013 Annual Report*, (ARS § 8-521), February 2014. **Note**: Age range 15-20 years. **Note:** Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (AYAP) PARTICIPANTS AGES 16-21 CY 2010- 2013 (12 MONTHS)	
CY 2010	1,544
CY 2011	1,512
CY 2012	1,867
CY 2013	1,795

Note: Total number includes the number of youth participating at the end of the year as well as the number who reportedly discharged during the year after participating in services.

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, and *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*, page 2.

ARIZONA YOUTH AGE 17-21 PARTICIPATING IN INDEPENDENT LIVING SUBSIDY PROGRAM (ILSP) SFY 2010-2013			
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 (512)	42%
SFY 2013	1113	480	43%

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. 2013, 7.22.2013, and 2.18.2015, and *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*, page 2.

H. _Unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (include youth up to 26th 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 2010-2013					
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%
CY 2013	1113	356 / 32%	214	66	31%

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, 7.19.2015, 7.22.2013, and 2.18.2015, and *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*, page 11.

I. _High school graduation rate for young people age 18 to age 25 (up to 26th 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 2010-2013					
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	689	467 / 68%	221	100	45%
CY 2013	696	320 / 46%	214	101	47%

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, 7.19.2013, 7.22.2013, and 2.18.2015, and *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*, page 11.

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 2010-2013						
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	404	350	87%	N/A	72	45%
CY 2012	467	385	82%	100	38	38%
CY 2013	320	269	84%	102	57	56%

Note: For CY 2013 the ILP/Ed Report was used for base numbers of youth in care on the last day of the report period (12-31-13) age 18 and older, and for high school completion and post-secondary enrollment.

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, 7.19.2013, 7.22.2013, and 2.18.2015 *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*, page 11.

EDUCATION AND TRAIING 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)	193	360

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, and *Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report, page 4.* ***Source of Data**: Foster Care To Success Presentation Handout, July 24, 2013.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT ENROLLMENT BY GRADE 2013 (12 MONTHS)	
Grade	**Number of Youth**
Below 7	0
7	0
8	0
9	33
10	219
11	524
12	340
	269
Not in School (includes youth who have graduated high school or received GED and are working instead of pursuing secondary education.	98
Total	1,483

Source of Data: Arizona Department of Economic Security-Division for Children, Youth and Families (ADES-DCYF*), Independent Living Program/Education 2013 Annual Report*, ARS § 8-521, February, 2014.

J. *Percentage of young people formerly in foster care age 18 to age 25 (up to 26th 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.

County	Homeless Single Adults Age 18-24		

ARIZONA HOMELESS YOUTH AGE 18-24 WHO IDENTIFY THEIR PRIOR LIVING SITUATION AS FOSTER CARE/GROUP HOME
SFY 2013

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	**20**	**2%**	**947**
Pima	Not Available	Not Available	175
Balance of State	Not Available	Not Available	140

Source of Data: *Homeless in Arizona 2013 Annual Report*, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Appendices, HMIS Data, December 2013. ** Pima and Balance of State numbers are only reported as Point in Time and not HMIS

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, POINT IN TIME)

YEAR	ENROLLMENT
9-1-2013	333
8-1-2014	413
4-1-2015	940

Source of data: AHCCCS Population Highlights August 2014, *September 1 2013-April 1-2015*

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

The Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS) is the state administered child welfare services agency. Child Protective Services, now DCS, became a separate entity from the Department of Economic Security in 2014. 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: Email communication provided by Michael Wisehart on June 06, 2013 retrieved from Beth Rosenberg on March 10, 2015.

C. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

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

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

In 2013, DCS provided support for State Youth Advisory Boards (SYAB's) at the local and state level to be engaged in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the child welfare system. SYAB informed the state Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program and Department and Division administrators about issues facing youth in care, reviewed policy and legislative proposals, assessed the effectiveness of improvement activities, identified new goals and activities, as well as participated in statewide foster and adoptive home recruitment efforts and training.*

Additionally, the youth's perspective was requested this year by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Medical Director for CMDP (Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program, the health plan for children in foster care), and the state Medicaid program (AHCCCS). These state staff along with youth from the SYAB developed a Toolkit for Youth designed to provide information and resources to youth on a variety of health related topics. These topics include prevention of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, sex "slavery", healthy relationships, and general adolescent health, etc., in a youth friendly format. Also, State and local Youth Advisory Boards and alumni groups remain available and 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.****

On a local level, Mercy Maricopa Youth Leadership Council actively involved young adults in monthly meetings regarding integrated health care. Additionally, Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) Youth Advisory Board studied issues for youth in care, identified solutions, and made recommendations for positive changes in the development and refinement of services and programs.

Another effort for involving young people in the child welfare system is Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE). This group 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.**

Also, Transitional Living Programs such as Tumbleweed Young Adult Program have Youth Advisory Boards and are actively involved in making decisions regarding community rules and expectations and planning social events.***

Of course,, in 2014, Fostering Advocates Arizona (FAAZ) Initiative continued the commitment to engage the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board as the primary voice and critical advisors for the Initiative in Arizona. FAAZ convened all 12 young adults for a day and a half retreat on

strategic story sharing and messaging. At this event young adults were able to share their stories, concerns, and solutions for themselves and other young adults in care. In June 2015, the Young Adult Leadership Board will attend and participated in the Youth-Adult Partnership Training with members from the Community Advisory Board. Board Members will have the opportunity to learn firsthand from each other the challenges and barriers facing the child welfare system, as well as explore ways to collaborate on solutions.

Beginning later this year, two members of the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board will have active and meaningful roles as they are directly involved in the initiatives self-evaluation team. The young adults will be recruited, trained, and supported to evaluate the FAAZ initiative direction, growth, and implementation of strategies. They will also play a critical role in evaluating the success of improving outcomes in the priority areas of permanence, education, employment, financial capability, housing, health, and social capital. In addition, one representative of the Young Adult Board will continue to serve on the Community Advisory Board.

Future efforts of the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board include advocating for the improvement of policies and systems. The Board drafted and are currently working on advocacy priorities to develop a 2016 advocacy publication to use at the planned Youth Day At The Capitol. The young adults have selected their advocacy priorities based on inconsistencies, needs, and gaps in services which reflect their personal experiences as well as the experiences of other young adults in care.

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 2013, p.41-168.

*** Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Planning Team, April 23, 2013.*

*** Interview with Greg Dicharry, Youth Empowerment Director, and Erica Noble, Child and Youth Services Liaison, Magellan (www.magellanofaz.com), May14, 2013.*

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

**** Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report*

10. *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 utilized a variety of strategies to address youth engagement as participation of young adults in the local initiative and community activities is a high priority. This is reflective in the Department of Child Safety (DCS) and the State Youth Advisory Boards (SYAB's) involvement in the planning of the June 2013 conference, titled "Wipeout!" This event provided a chance for staff, contracted providers and youth to collaborate in developing and delivering workshops and activities on a variety of topics, including effective communication, reproductive health, careers, rights and responsibilities, and education. Chafee funds were used to support this event and the participation of youth and alumni in planning and facilitating this event.*

Transportation and meeting location continues to be a barrier for youth participating in events due to the large geographic area of Phoenix and limited public transportation. Some agencies and programs have developed successful strategies to insure youth are able to participate. For example, to combat this barrier FAAZ offers transportation assistance to young adults on the Young Adult Leadership Board in the forms of bus and light rail passes, gas cards, and cabs through a contract with American Pony Express.

Scheduling conflicts due to commitments of school, employment, extracurricular activities, lack of support from foster parents/families, and personal issues in a young adult's life also creates barriers in the ability for young adults to participate in activities. To better ensure and increase participation of attendance on the FAAZ Young Adult Leadership Board, monthly board meetings are held mid-day on Saturday in order to combat scheduling conflicts. Also, young adults receive incentives in the form of stipends to attend the monthly board meetings, as well as for attending events as a representative of the FAAZ initiative.

To accommodate overnight conferences and young adults who are parenting, FAAZ provides hotel accommodations as well as child care services for young adults in need.

FAAZ has provided Opportunity Passport financial literacy trainings and has experimented with offering classes on Saturdays, weekdays, and during school breaks at various locations. Transportation, food, and stipends have been provided to increase program participation and enrollment.

* Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report, page 8

** Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report, page 7

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

Please see report from the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 pg. 71-77 as the information remains unchanged.

12. 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?

FAAZ has taken an active role in connecting young adults in foster care to legal advocacy services and supports through linking young adults to their bill of rights, as well as programs such as ALWAYS through the recently launched website fosteringdvocatesarizona.org. ALWAYS supports the empowerment of young people as they transition to adulthood and provides free legal services to youth and young people up to age 24 who have experienced

homelessness in Arizona, as well as survivors of sex trafficking and abuse. Services include family law, setting aside past criminal convictions for employment, appealing fingerprint card denials and immigration law.

Also, through the FAAZ website, young adults are connected to contact information for the Department of Child Safety (DCS) Family Advocacy where they can learn more about their bill of rights, speak to a DCS Family Advocate, and/or file a complaint.

There is conversation about possibly appointing a foster care ombudsman specifically for young adults. The Children's Ombudsman's primary responsibilities would be to advocate for the individual, work directly with the individual and/or family to handle matters of discretion, and promote young adults' rights in public policy, law, and practice.

For further information, please see report from the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 pg. 77-82, as the information is unchanged.

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.**

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

Please see report from the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 pg. 83-87 as the information remains the same.

14. *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?*

Please see report from the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 pg. 87-88 as the information remains the same.

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

Please see report from the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 pg. 89 as the information remains unchanged.

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

Please see report from the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan](#) 2013 pg.89-91 as the information remains unchanged.

17. *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, 61 programs provide job training statewide, with 26 programs located in Maricopa County. Job search services are provided by 56 programs statewide with 17 in Maricopa County.*

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care 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.

Job readiness, development, and retention is particularly important for young adults in foster care as lack of employment can lead to disconnected youth which is defined as "young people ages 16 to 24 that are homeless, in foster care, involved in the justice system, or are neither employed or enrolled in an educational institution." **** Disconnected youth can lead to negative outcomes such as young adults engaging in negative behaviors. This is particularly important to Arizona as Phoenix ranks as the most disconnected metropolitan area in the county where one in five youth are neither working nor in school.*****

To better support disconnected youth and the underlying issues of lack of employment and education, 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.***

Recently, the Keys to Success program with the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation has helped pave the way in providing job readiness and retention services to young adults in foster care age 15-17. The program takes a unique approach as the career development specialists work one-on-one with the young adults, evaluate their interest and skills, as well as their values and personalities. Once a youth completes the career exploration process, he/she will work with a volunteer who currently works with companies across the Phoenx Metropolitan Valley that are committed to hiring youth from foster care. Once a youth secures employment, they will follow up regularly with the employer and the youth.**

Additionally, through the FAAZ website young adults are connected to resources that provide job readiness, job development, and job retention services including: Jewish Family and Children Service Job Training and Skills Program, Job Corps, Friendly House, Goodwill Job Training and Career Services, Maricopa Skill Center, Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Arizona Women's Education and Employment, Central Arizona Shelter Services, Fresh Start Women's Foundation, MesaCAN, St. Joseph the Worker, and Arizona Common Ground.

To learn more about the programs mentioned above and additional resources please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 91-95 as the information remains unchanged.

**Arizona 211-Get Connected: Community Information and Referral, (http://www.cir.org/), July 2015.*

****Keys to Success Program, Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, (http://www.affcf.org/about/keys-to-success/), March 2015. List any educational resources in your current target area(s) that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care.*

**** http://www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com/resources/jobseekers.asp*

*****Reconnecting Youth. (2015) FindYouthInfo.gov*

******Maricopa County Education Services Agency. (2014) Disconnected Youth Summit. Phoenix, AZ.*

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

Arizona provides various educational programs for youth in foster care to provide young adults with the knowledge, skills, choices, and opportunities to pursue their educational journey. 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, 76 programs provide GED classes and testing facilities statewide, with 39 programs located in Maricopa County. Literacy services are provided by 45 programs statewide with 28 in Maricopa County.*

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care and do not represent a comprehensive list of potential resources for these services.

Key educational support is available to young adults specifically geared towards youth who are aging out of the foster care system including:

- **Education and Training Voucher (ETV):** The Department of Child Safety (DCS) receives funding for the program from the federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. ETV helps with higher education expenses for current or former foster care young adults up to age 21. DCS has the option to extend ETV funding to age 23. Foster Care To Success (FC2S), a national nonprofit organization administers 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. **
- **Arizona Tuition Waiver**: Covers certain school fees and tuition not included in other grants. The waiver is available to young adults who were in foster care at age 16 or older and who are currently under 23.

There are also a number of post-secondary education scholarships available to young adults particularly pertaining to transitioning youth. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation Scholarship** *(AFFC)*
- **Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship** *(ASU)*
- **Blavin Scholarship** *(NAU)*
- **John S. Brewer Memorial Scholarship Fund**
- **Casey Family Programs**
- **Nina Mason Pulliam Scholarship** *(Maricopa Community Colleges and ASU)*
- **Federal Pell Grant Program**
- **Arizona Community Foundation**
- **Arizona State University (ASU) Foundation**

To better support the unique needs of young adults in foster care, two DCS post-secondary education staff serve as a liaisons for transitioning foster youth. They help youth meet their educational needs and goals in graduating from high school, passing the mandatory test, and applying for postsecondary education as well as financial assistance.

Previously mentioned, CAA collaborated with the national non-profit Foster Care To Success, Arizona's public community college and university staff, and the DCS to develop a procedure to administer the Arizona Foster Care Tuition Waiver Pilot Program (SB 1208, Laws of 2013). CAA contracted with Foster Care To Success to develop an electronic portal system for universities and community colleges to track student eligibility for the Arizona Tuition Waiver and the DCS administered Education and Training Voucher.

DCS 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:***

- Local areas arrange 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 programs and activities.
- Youth participate in College Goal Sunday with counselors on hand to help youth complete financial aid applications. During the CY 2013 event, over 300 financial aid professionals and volunteers assisted high school seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).
- In April 2014, OCJ Kids (Opportunity, Community & Justice for Kids) held a Fostering Transitions Career Fair at DeVry University for Foster Youth living in group homes in Maricopa County.

Additional community resources are available to young adults such as College Depot which offers free, comprehensive college planning services at the Burton Barr Central Library in downtown Phoenix. Their team of college planning advisors and assistants can meet with youth in person. College Depot also offers workshops on college admission, financial aid and scholarships.

To learn more about the programs mentioned above and additional resources, please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 95-105 as the information remains unchanged.

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

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

**Foster Care to Success (www.fc2success.org).*

**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, pages 167-168.*

*** Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program Annual Progress Report 2014 and 2010-2014 Final Report, page 4*

19.   *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 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, but are not limited to:*

- **Florence Crittenton (Maricopa County)**
- **Maggie's Place**
- **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**
- **Tempe Union High School District-Tempe Community Council**

Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team Meeting 4.23.2013.

To learn more about the programs mentioned above and additional resources please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 106 as the information remains unchanged.

20. 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, 123 programs provide housing services including rent assistance, transitional shelter, furniture and low income housing statewide, with 44 programs located in Maricopa County.

Programs referenced and highlighted in the Environmental Scan represent only a small number of examples of programs serving youth transitioning from foster care 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, as well as outreach efforts to get young adults off the streets and into stable housing. Arizona continues efforts to provide residential and transitional living services specifically targeted for young adults in care through Independent Living Program providers. Examples include:

- **Tumbleweed Youth Adult Program**
- **Florence Crittenton**
- **A New Leaf Transitional Living Program**
- **HomeBase Youth Services Programs of Native American Connections (NAC)**
- **Street Outreach**
- **Day Outreach Center**
- **Transitional Living**
- **Our Family Teens in Transition: Transitional Housing**

DCS offers subsides to assist youth with their transition to adulthood to better ensure they have the resources, knowledge, and supports to live independently as young adults. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Independent Living Program (ILP):** Young adults work with DCS Child Safety Specialists and have access to an Independent Living Specialist through Arizona Children's Association as they transition to their new life. Young adults in this program are eligible for the Independent Living Subsidy Program.
- **Independent Living Subsidy Program (ILSP)**: Is a monthly allowance to help cover living costs for eligible youth living on their own as they transition to independence.
- **Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP):** Young adults work with an Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) Independent Living Specialist to get advice and assistance on life decisions, like applying for the Education and Training Voucher or finding a place to live. Some financial help may be available for school-related expenses, job searches and housing costs.

FAAZ Community Advisory Board is actively engaged in the efforts to ensure safe, affordable, convenient, and supportive housing for young adults. Charlene Flaherty, who works with

Cooperation for Supportive Housing (CSH), sits on the FAAZ Community Advisory Board and is an active member in addressing housing issues and priorities for young adults transitioning out of care with a "Housing First" model.

To learn more about the programs mentioned above, additional resources, and barriers please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 106-113 as the information remains unchanged.

18. *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?*

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) through contracts with 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 behavioral health services, as needed, and as provided through the RBHA system of care.*

ADHS-DBHS was created in 1986, and 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:**

- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care 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

Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care is the RBHA in Maricopa County and is a local not-for-profit health plan sponsored by Mercy Care Plan and Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS).***

It should be noted that state legislation, HB 1257, passed in 2015 that will transfer the behavioral health services administration from ADHS-DBHS to AHCCCS by June 30, 2016. In addition, for regions outside of Maricopa County, new contracts have been awarded and will begin

starting October 1, 2015. The Northern region will be served by Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC) and Cenpatico Integrated Care will serve the [Southern Region]

To learn more about the programs mentioned above, additional resources, and barriers please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 113-125 as the information remains unchanged.

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, and Interview with Eddie Sissons, Consultant, Research Advisory Services, July 17, 2013.

** Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health. (www.azdhs.gov).*

*** http://www.mercymaricopa.org/*

19.   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?

Partnerships have solidified between non-profit organizations, the government and the business sector, aimed at improving outcomes, maximizing resources, and increasing utilization of services among youth transitioning out of foster care. While there are many collaboration efforts throughout the community, below are a few key examples of recent collaboration efforts that are particularly relevant to youth transitioning out of foster care.

- **Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS):** Maricopa County DCS staff and contract staff participate in a number of collaborative efforts, 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 2014 key activities included:
  - 6th Annual Youth Convening which focused on leadership and being the pilot of your own life and planning of the 7th Annual Youth Convening for July of 2015.
  - Planning and participating in a variety of activities (Winter Formal, a Graduation Dance) for local youth.
  - Creating a distribution closet from donations where young adults "shop" for items for their first apartments.

- Convened AHCCCS, DES, and DCS staff to advocate for better practices and policies that would streamline Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) enrollment (i.e. Medicaid for foster youth up to age 26). Organized a series of discussions where all three agencies communicated about foster youth health insurance coverage via The Affordable Care Act. As a first step, the agencies eliminated steps in the application process that required manual paperwork and also updated the electronic application to improve the system's ability to confirm documentation of foster care status rather than requiring this

of the young adult applicants. Each agency also identified contact staff who will communicate with each other about the lists of foster youth turning 18 and resolve any issues in their transition health insurance enrollment.

- o Created and distributed a Health Care Toolkit that included informational brochures and commonly asked questions and answers about YATI coverage so that young adults and the many community agencies who work with them will have the tools to promote enrollment.
- o Partnered with Kids Health Link to train community providers and matched agencies that serve transitioning youth with specific community agencies who assist people in health insurance applications so young adults can get direct and personal assistance.

20. 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 one or two Champion for Children each year**: These individuals extend their advocacy 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.

- **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.

- **The Jacque Steiner Public Leadership Award for Children**: In memory of the late Senator Jacque Steiner, 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.

To learn more about the programs mentioned above, additional resources, and past award honorees, please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 127-129 as the information remains unchanged.

21. List the key businesses and philanthropic organizations in your current target area(s).

FAAZ has taken action to create partnerships with key businesses in the community to better ensure outcomes of young adults in the areas of permanence, education, employment, financial capability, housing, health, and social capital. CAA staff continually identify door openers for the FAAZ initiative as well as specific Opportunity Passport activities including, but not limited to:

- Earnhardt Ford: provides reliable, fair, and honest assistance for young adults in the vehicle purchasing process including sound lending practices. Also co-trains at Opportunity Passport Transportation training.
- Wells Fargo: assists young adults in providing supportive, fair, and flexible financial services such as opening a bank account, budgeting, and savings and investments. Also co-trains at Opportunity Passport Trainings.

22. 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?

Please see report from the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan](#) 2013 pg.132-133 as the information remains unchanged.

23. List other existing foundation initiatives in your community that might be interested in supporting work relevant to child welfare and children in foster care.

- Arizona Community Foundation
- Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
- May and Stanley Smith Foundation
- Piper
- Helios
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Tucson United Way

24. 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).

Fostering Advocates Arizona 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
- CASA Program
- Wingspan (Pima County)
- *one n ten*
- Behavioral Health Providers

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

25. Describe the potential to leverage resources in your current target area(s) (i.e., public agencies, local businesses, community foundations).

The strength of the FAAZ Initiative is the network of government agencies, organizations and programs with a successful history of working together and pooling resources to serve this population. CAA continues its efforts to reach out to potential funders, such as corporations and financial institutions, to support efforts that are collaborative and based on the effective strategies of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. Key areas of focus will continue to 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).
- Reaching out with grant proposals and other funding opportunities focused on a large extent on supporting the expansion of the Opportunity Passport work.

* *Meeting with Beth Rosenberg and Meghan Arrigo, Children's Action Alliance, July, 17, 2013.*

26. 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?

A.B. and C. There are quite a number of youth service 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, Arizona Friends of Foster Care, Job Corps, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care, ALWAYS, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Casey Family Programs, FosterED, Open Inn, Our Family, HomeBase Youth Services, Canyon State Academy and Call a Teen) are currently participating on the FAAZ 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). Conjoined, these organizations bring an immense amount of knowledge, resources, and insight into the needs of foster care youth as well as the similar populations in which these organizations serve, as well as the overlapping of populations for at risk youth.

E. RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION

Objective: To involve key stakeholders in using data to drive decision making and communications and in documenting results.

30. Describe your state's National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data collection efforts.

31. Describe other data collection efforts that may provide comparison data for your own local data collection efforts.

To learn more about the data collection efforts mentioned above please see the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013](#) report pg. 135-136 as the information remains unchanged.

32. List any partners providing technical assistance related to self-evaluation.

The following partners have provided technical assistance with data collection and analyses for the Environmental Scan. FAAZ 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 Child Safety
- Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Dependent Children's' Services Division
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

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.

33. List any partners providing technical assistance related to communications.

To learn more about the partners providing technical assistance related to communication mentioned above please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 137 as the information remains unchanged.

F. PUBLIC WILL AND POLICY

34. List any major transitions in political leadership about to take place that could have an impact on transitioning youth.

In Arizona, there have been recent major shifts in the political leadership that directly impacts the child welfare system (See Section A. Capacity to Plan.)

35. What is the recent (within the past year) history of "hot issues" related to child welfare (child deaths, missing children, special panel appointments, etc.)?

- The investigation of 6,500 non-investigated reports of child abuse and neglect and the recommendations of the CARE Team - see https://azcareteam.az.gov/
- The creation of the stand-alone Department of Child Safety as of May 29, 2014.
- With a new Governor in place, the change in DCS agency leadership within the first 8 months of operation.
- The number of child abuse and neglect reports requiring investigation has grown 43% between the reporting periods of April, 2008-September, 2008 and April, 2014-September, 2014.
- The number of kids entering foster care has increased 88% between June, 2013 and February, 2015.
- The total number of children in foster care has increased 12% between between February, 2014 and February, 2015.
- In February, 2015, more than 17,300 kids were in foster care.
- The number of children who died from maltreatment where there was a current case open with DCS more than tripled between 2007 and 2013. There has been a year-to-year increase of 31% in the number of children who died as a result of maltreatment between 2012 and 2013.
- The number of children entering out-of-home care with a prior removal within 24 months hit a more than six-year high of 699 during the reporting period of April, 2014-September, 2014.

36. 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.

To learn more public policy advocates with a track record of addressing child welfare and other children and family well-being issues as mentioned above, please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 161 as the information remains unchanged.

G. INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES

40. 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.

Currently, FAAZ is partnering with Wells Fargo, to work with the young adults in the Opportunity Passport program, and provide financial services that are fair, flexible, and honest. Wells Fargo employees work with the young adults first hand, as they co-train at the Opportunity Passport trainings in regards to credit building, money management, savings and investments.

FAAZ staff and the Opportunity Passport Coordinator are currently looking to expand their network of financial institutions that are community-oriented and youth friendly, in order to increase the inclusiveness of services that are offered, and to better serve the unique needs of each individual.

To learn more on the availability of financial institutions that are community-oriented, youth-friendly, with flexible policies that benefit young adults, please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 162-163 as the information remains unchanged.

41.   Describe the potential for securing matched funds for matched savings (or IDAs).

Securing match-savings funds for the Opportunity Passport™ program continues to be a struggle. To date, FAAZ has secured $45,000.00 in financial commitments to support matched savings. FAAZ is pursuing additional potential resources and partnerships with Andrus Family Fund, American Woodmark, Comerica, Bankers Trust, CoBiz Cares Foundation/Arizona Business Bank, Cox Charities, Arizona Community Foundation, and SunWest Federal Credit Union.

42.   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 DCS 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.*

To learn more about the availability of financial education training providers including financial institutions and other community organizations, please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg. 164-167 as the information remains unchanged.

Arizona Youth Opportunities Planning Team, April 12, 2013 and Interview with Meghan Arrigo, Children's Action Alliance, July 29, 2013.

A. Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?

Fostering Advocates Arizona (FAAZ) has also partnered with Money Management International (MMI), through a partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). MMI is the largest nonprofit, full-service credit counseling agency in the United States. Since 1958, they have been helping consumers find the tools and solutions they need to achieve financial freedom. They provide professional financial guidance, credit counseling, community-wide educational programs, debt management assistance, bankruptcy counseling and education services, and housing counseling assistance to consumers via phone, Internet and in-person sessions. MMI is a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and The Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies (AICCCA). MMI has agreed to partner with the IRC and FAAZ initiative and provide in-depth credit counseling to young adults in the Opportunity Passport program who have a higher level of financial needs.*

Please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg.167 as the information remains unchanged.

http://www.moneymanagement.org/

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?

Please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg.167-168 as the information remains unchanged.

43. List possible partners for the provision of asset-specific training in the following areas: vehicles, education/training, housing, investments, microenterprise, credit building and health.

Please see the Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013 report pg.168 as the information remains unchanged.

A. Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?
FAAZ has prioritized the development of asset-specific trainings statewide in 2014 and 2015. A number of businesses and organizations who are community-oriented and youth friendly have partnered with FAAZ for the provision of asset-training including, but not limited to:

- **Wells Fargo:** Provides honest, fair, and flexible financial assistance to young adults in the Opportunity Passport program in regards to opening a banking account, savings and investments, as well as opening a line of credit and credit building. Employees from Wells Fargo co-facilitate Opportunity Passport trainings, which allow young adults to put a friendly face to finances and become excited about the benefits of banking.
- **Earnhardt Ford:** Assists young adults in the car buying process, provides sound lending services, and co-facilitates Opportunity Passport trainings on vehicle purchasing and maintenance.
- **Children's Law Center:** Provides support to young adults with liens on their credit and assists youth in resolving legal issues. Scheduled to co-train Opportunity Passport trainings on housing including leasing, contract signing, and roles and legal responsibilities of tenants.
- **College Depot:** Co-facilitates Opportunity Passport training and assists young adults in their educational journey from comprehensive college/vocational planning to career planning, college admission, studying abroad, as well as financial aid and scholarships.
- **Money Management International:** Provides direct assistance to young adults in Opportunity Passport with a higher level of credit and financial needs.
- **Arizona State University/Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars:** Referal for Nina Mason Pulliam Scholars who are enrolled at ASU for Opportunity Passport Program.

To learn more about the organizations or institutions current and potential partners, please see the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013](#) report pg.168 as the information remains unchanged.

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?

Please see the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013](#) report pg.169 as the information remains unchanged.

44. 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.

Please see the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013](#) report pg.169-173 as the information remains unchanged.

45. 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).

Please see the [Arizona Youth Opportunities Initiative Environmental Scan 2013](#) report pg.173-177 as the information remains unchanged.