ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY
Gregory McKay, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

AZ KIDS *Thrive* 2018

2018 Year End Review
#AZKidsThrive

DCS Mission: Successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency.

DCS Vision: Children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect.

Below are our highlights for 2018:

Fewer AZ Children in State Care

Arizona continues to post a **25% safe reduction** in the foster care population as the national average shows an average increase of 4%. For the last 15 months, more children have exited state care than have entered.

Increased Kinship Supports

The number of foster children benefitting from expanded kinship stipends has increased from around 700 in 2016 to over 2,600.

Reduction in Shelter Care

Since FY 2016, the number of children in shelter care has dropped from 359 to 78, a 78% reduction.

-78%

Reduction in Use of Congregate Care

As a result of lowering shelter and group home placements, Arizona has realized a 30% reduction of combined Congregate Care placement. (Group Home placements reduced from 2,016 in Nov 2015 to 1,595 in Oct 2018 and Shelter placements reduced from 398 in May 2016 to 95 in Oct 2018).

Guardian Update

Technical Integrator Microsoft has begun their work. DCS Guardian team documents over 1,100 user stories to be utilized as the basis for system design. **DCS receives multiple awards** from the IT community for implementing its "Mobile First" strategy and tablet deployment.

DCS receives National awards and special recognition

Date	Award
January 2018	Casey Excellence for Children Award from Casey Family Programs
April 2018	National Day of Hope, Childhelp Voice of Children Congressional Award
April 2018	Justice for All Award
May 2018	Statescoop 50 Awards Finalist – Linda Jewell, DCS
August 2018	CIO Magazine - CIO 100 Award, Linda Jewell, Arizona Department of Child Safety
August 2018	National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) – Award Finalist, Digital Government: Government to Citizen Category
September 2018	American Public Human Services Association - ISM 2018 Recognition Award for Excellence in Health and Human Services Technology – Best Use of Technology for Operations

April 2018 Justice for All Award presented by the Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery.

August 2018 Shalom Jacobs and Linda Jewell accept the CIO 100 Award, CIO Magazine.

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↓ **25%** decrease in the foster care population.

Over the last 2 years, Arizona safely decreased its foster care population by 25%, as the national average increased by 4%.

↓ **78%** reduction in shelter placements.

Arizona has seen a 78% reduction in the number of children placed in emergency shelters.

↓ **24%** reduction in congregate care

Arizona has seen a 24% reduction in use of congregate care between shelter and group home placements.
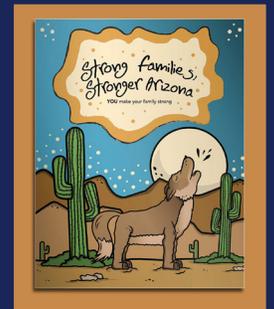
Prevention Efforts

Baby Box Program

The DCS Baby Box Program grew beyond a pilot program and is now available statewide. The aim of the program is to reinforce safe sleep practices and encourage parents of newborns to complete safe sleep training. All boxes are sponsored for free to DCS-involved families receiving in-home services. The ABC's of safe sleep are: baby sleeps safest Alone, on their Back, and in a Crib. The box can be used as a crib by new parents and approximately 750 boxes have been distributed to DCS-involved families to date.

Protective Factors Coloring Book

Protective Factors are proven strengths that help keep families strong. As a way of helping children and families better understand these protective factors, a coloring book was created taking inspiration from our desert environment in Arizona. Protective factors highlighted in the book are: Nurturing, Parenting Skills, Concrete Support, Resilience, Social Connections, and Social and Emotional Competence. The book is in English and Spanish.

Community Engagement

• Aviva Sew-a-thon – Volunteers sewed homemade bags for children coming into foster care in Pima County.

• Secret Superhero Film – In May, an Arizona short film was launched entitled "Secret Superhero" – the film engages the community by following DCS social worker Chanetta Curtis as she works with children and families. The goal of the film is to elevate community awareness of the importance of the social worker in society and also to instill pride in the people that perform this difficult work every day. Secondarily the film aims to engage those who are considering fostering or adopting a child to take their first steps.

• FACT Program Pilot – FACT stands for "Fostering Achievement through Computer Technology." A pilot program was launched in order to put technology into the hands of foster youth entering high school. Students are provided internet safety training then presented with their own laptop to help with their studies. It also helps build self-esteem among our youth that may not otherwise have access to technology in their home environment. To learn more about the program or to contribute: https://dcs.az.gov/FACT