



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY**  
**Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families**  
**Involved with the Department of Child Safety**  
**Report to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership**  
**June 2019**

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This report has been prepared pursuant to Executive Order 2008-01: Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services, which requires all Executive Branch agencies that administer substance abuse treatment and prevention services to submit a written report by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP). The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) administers the Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (Families in Recovery Succeeding Together) program, also known as AFF. As required by Executive Order 2008-01, this report describes the actions taken to give priority to families referred to DCS, and to maximize federal funds to the greatest extent possible before expending state funding. In addition, this report provides a description of available services, data on the number of individuals served, and permanency outcome data.

**Program Eligibility and Services**

The Department of Child Safety administers AFF in collaboration with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the AFF provider agencies. The program provides family-centered substance abuse and recovery support services to parents/caregivers who are involved with the child welfare system via a child abuse and neglect report, and whose substance abuse is a barrier to maintaining children in the home or to reunification. These same services are available to clients of the Department of Economic Security (DES) Jobs program whose substance abuse is a barrier to obtaining or maintaining employment. During SFY 2018, 99.9% of referrals were made by DCS while 0.1% were referred by the DES Jobs program.

A comprehensive array of treatment and other related services is available statewide through three contracted AFF providers who serve all five DCS regions. The AFF providers serve Title XIX-eligible clients through coordination with the statewide Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA). Basic and intensive outpatient treatment includes group therapy, family therapy, individual therapy, drug screening, inpatient treatment when assessed as the least restrictive treatment needed for the client's recovery, concrete supportive services (such as transportation and

child care) when needed to promote recovery, and auxiliary services (parenting skills sessions, domestic violence classes, anger management, job search assistance, etc.).

### **Funding Sources**

Services provided to AFF clients were funded jointly by DCS and AHCCCS. In SFY 2018, DCS funding for AFF was \$7,553,452. In addition, AHCCCS federal funds covered the majority of costs for clients who were Title XIX and Title XXI-eligible. DCS and AHCCCS funding together allowed AFF to administer a full array of services across the state with no waiting list to access these services. At the time of the initial substance abuse assessment, 59.3% of clients were Title XIX eligible, 28.1% of services were funded by DCS, and 12.6% were either eligible for private insurance, tribal funds, or Medicare, or their funding source was not known. At the time of closure (for referrals closed in SFY 2018), 30.7% were funded through AHCCCS/Title XIX, 36.2% of services were funded through DCS, and the remaining 33.1% were funded through private insurance, tribal funds or Medicare, or the source was unknown. Reasons for the funding source change can include situations where clients' AHCCCS enrollment lapsed, clients were in recovery maintenance (which AHCCCS does not fund), or clients were no longer eligible because they obtained or increased employment (from part-time to full-time).

### **Total Individuals Served**

Data from the most recent program evaluation indicates that 8,293 new AFF referrals were received in SFY 2018. Outreach was completed for 97.1% of the individuals referred, with 90.6% of outreach activities occurring within one day or less. A substance abuse intake and assessment was completed with 7,003 of the individuals referred. A total of 3,900 unique individuals (both new referrals and continuing clients) received treatment services and 5,875 received support services. Of the 3,900 receiving treatment, 69.5% of clients engaged in outpatient treatment (at least three hours per week), 30.3% received intensive outpatient treatment (at least eight hours per week), and .2% received residential treatment (24/7 treatment).

Support services provided for the 5,875 clients include service coordination (case management) and auxiliary and concrete supportive services. Besides case management, clients received parenting skills training, job readiness and employment assistance, non-substance-abuse-treatment mental health services, domestic violence education, crisis intervention, and basic life skills training. Parenting skills was the most-requested auxiliary service of 55.7% of AFF clients and non-treatment mental health services were provided to 16.3% of clients.

### **Family Well-Being & Permanency Outcomes**

Among the individuals analyzed for child maltreatment statistics through SFY 2018, approximately 92.9% of clients had one or more allegations of child maltreatment at the time of their referrals to the AFF program. Of these referrals, 75.7% had at least one substantiated finding at the time of the referral, and an additional 15.6% had at least one unsubstantiated allegation at the time of referral. At the conclusion of SFY 2018, 67.1% had no new reports to DCS after being referred to AFF, approximately 16.5% had an unsubstantiated maltreatment allegation after being referred to the program, and 13.1% had a substantiated finding after referral to the AFF program. It should be noted that these numbers sometimes include more than one allegation per parent or caregiver, so these amounts do not total 100%.

Data related to permanency for children indicates 74.3% of the children associated with a closed AFF referral during SFY 2018 had achieved permanency. Of the children who had achieved permanency, 49.4% were reunified with their family, 43.4% were adopted and 7.1% involved guardianship.

During SFY 2018, 10.7% of individuals successfully completed treatment, 16.7% are still in treatment, and 58.8% unsuccessfully closed out of the program. Additionally, the percentage of clients reporting they were employed full time and who completed treatment increased from 39.7% at intake to 44.3% at closure.

These results are encouraging and further the legislative goals of increasing the availability, timeliness, and accessibility of substance abuse treatment. In turn, these services help to improve child safety, family stability, and permanency for child in foster or other out-of-home placement, and help families achieve self-sufficiency through employment.