

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY



Kinship Stipend Program Annual Report

Report Date: March 31, 2023
Reporting Period: SFY2023, February 2023

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Laws 2022, Second Regular Session, Chapter 313, Section 17, on or before March 31, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety (“Department”) is required to report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) the number of children who are part of the kinship stipend program and who reside with a nonrelative caretaker of fictive kinship. A ‘fictive kinship caregiver’ means an adult person who has a significant relationship with a child, and who is caring for a child who is under the care custody and control of the Department.

During the 2022 legislative session, the kinship stipend amount increased from \$75.00 per child/youth per month to \$300.00 per child/youth per month. The Department appreciates the additional support this will provide caregivers who are committed to providing a family-like setting to children who benefit from being able to remain in the care of persons with whom they are familiar and already have a relationship. This experience can be very beneficial in helping the child or youth transition to out-of-home care and reduce the trauma. It is critical that these caregivers receive as much support as possible to ensure they can be more prepared to provide a safe, stable, loving and nurturing home.

KINSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM RESULTS

The table describes the number of children or youth who were residing with a fictive kinship caregiver and for whom the caregiver was receiving the kinship stipend. Kinship placements that did not have a known relationship in the system were distributed by the same percentage as the known data.

	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	January 2022	February 2022
Fictive Kinship Caregiver (Non-Relative)	528	484	515	484	479	466	494	474
Kinship Caregiver (Relative)	5056	4983	4945	4993	4912	4877	4827	4872
Total Kinship	5584	5467	5460	5477	5391	5343	5321	5346