



## **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**

**July 2023**

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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 SFY2022, 99.4% of referrals were made by DCS while less than one percent were referred by the DES Jobs program or were missing their referral source information.

A comprehensive array of treatment and other related services is available statewide through two 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.). In addition, the program is now able to work with youth who are struggling with substance abuse and focuses on utilizing a client's family and support system to help encourage their treatment and maintain their sobriety.

## **Funding Sources**

Services provided to AFF clients were funded jointly by DCS and AHCCCS. In SFY2022, the total amount of program funding was \$6,631,932, of which \$552,780 was DCS funding (State matching funds) with the rest from federal TANF funding. 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. 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 7,162 new AFF referrals were received in SFY2022. Outreach was completed for 7,005 of the individuals referred, with 90% of outreach activities occurring within one day or less. A substance abuse intake and assessment were completed with 2,657 of the individuals referred. A total of 4,117 unique individuals (both new referrals and continuing clients) received AFF services in SFY22.

The various support services, including treatment services, service coordination (case management) and auxiliary and concrete supportive services can be broken up into counseling and non-counseling services. Counseling services accounted for 28% of services delivered in the AFF program with non-counseling services accounting for 72% of services. Of the counseling services provided, group counseling was documented most at 87% and case coordination was documented most often, at 74%, for non-counseling services. Additionally, the percentage of clients reporting they were unemployed decreased from 37% at assessment in SFY2021 to 15% at assessment in SFY2022. Besides case coordination, clients also 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.

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

For SFY2022, 10% of clients that completed AFF services had a substantiated report of maltreatment while 90% of those who did not complete services had a substantiated report of maltreatment. AFF program completers have substantially fewer substantiated findings overall. For those who completed AFF services in SFY2022, approximately 3% had a substantiated report before being referred to the program, and 7% had a substantiated finding after referral to the AFF program.

When reviewing removals that were tracked on matched AFF clients from July 1, 2016 through to December 31, 2022, 6 months after the end of SFY2022, significantly more parents who completed AFF (77%) were reunified with their child than those who did not complete AFF (46%). In addition, it should be noted that this data also shows that most AFF clients, 83%, do not have a child removed from their home.

Of all clients who were closed out of the program during SFY2022, 10% of individuals successfully completed treatment, and 90% did not complete the program.

These results continue to 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 children in foster or other out-of-home living arrangements, and help families achieve self-sufficiency through employment.