



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
August 6, 2024

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 30th 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 Standing 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 CPS (now 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's Jobs program whose substance abuse is a significant barrier to obtaining or maintaining employment. During SFY2023, 99% 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 three contracted AFF providers. 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 works 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 SFY2023, the total amount of program funding was \$5,972,430.71, all of which \$552,780 was 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 6,802 new AFF referrals were received in SFY2023. Outreach was completed for 6,671 of the individuals referred, with 96% of outreach activities occurring within one day or less. A substance abuse intake and assessment were completed with 2,238 of the individuals referred and another 134 had no assessment completed yet but the case was still open at the end of SFY2023. AFF providers had contact with a total of 5,336 unique individuals (both new referrals and continuing clients) at some time during SFY2023.

The various support services, including treatment services, service coordination (case management) and auxiliary and concrete supportive services can be broken up into substance abuse treatment and non-substance abuse treatment services. For substance abuse treatment services, the level of care identified at assessment for SFY2023 was 48% outpatient, 28% intensive outpatient, 20% substance use awareness, and 4% recovery maintenance or residential treatment. Of the non-substance abuse treatment services provided for SFY2023, the type was 33% case management, 27% other, 24% job readiness/employment, 6% basic life services/peer support/social skills/domestic violence services, 4% parenting, 3% mental health, and 3% medical services.

Family Well-Being & Permanency Outcomes

For SFY 2021 to SFY 2023, 47% of clients that completed AFF services had a substantiated or proposed substantiated report of maltreatment at or after AFF closure, compared to 55% of those who did not complete services.

Reviewing permanency outcome data for AFF parent/caregiver's who had a child removed and were referred to AFF in SFYs 2021 to 2023, significantly more parents who completed AFF (86%) were reunified with their child than those who did not complete AFF (52%).

Of all clients who were closed out of the program during SFY2023, 6% of individuals successfully completed the AFF program, and 82% did not complete the program, and 12% had no substance abuse problem identified at assessment, DCS discontinued the service, or closure information is missing.

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.