

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY



Kinship Stipend Program Annual Report

Report Date: March 31, 2025
Reporting Period: CY2024

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Laws 2024, Second Regular Session, Chapter 209, Section 25, on or before March 31, 2025 the Arizona Department of Child Safety (the “Department” or “ADCS”) is required to report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) the number of children who are part of the kinship stipend program and 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 to helping the child or youth transition to out-of-home care and reduce the trauma. It is critical 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.

Table 1a

	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Fictive Kinship Caregiver (Non-Relative)	667	687	738	769	763	772
Kinship Caregiver (Relative)	3,685	3,628	3,562	3,431	3,331	3,289
Total Kinship	4,352	4,315	4,300	4,200	4,094	4,061

Table 1b

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Fictive Kinship Caregiver (Non-Relative)	795	801	806	753	696	654
Kinship Caregiver (Relative)	3,199	3,157	3,075	3,052	3,007	3,044
Total Kinship	3,994	3,958	3,881	3,805	3,703	3,698