



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

1717 West Jefferson • P.O. Box 6123 • Phoenix, AZ 85005

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Tracy L. Wareing
Director

FEB 29 2008

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

Dear Governor Napolitano:

Laws 2006, Chapter 338, Section 1 amended Arizona Revised Statutes § 8-521 by requiring the Department of Economic Security to prepare a report by March 1 of each year that contains the following information for the youth served through the Independent Living Program during the previous calendar year:

- The number of children in the program.
- The number of children in the program by age and grade.
- The number of children in the program by county of residence.
- The number of children in the program who graduated from high school.
- The number of children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma.
- The number of children in the program enrolled in postsecondary education.

In accordance with this requirement, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-5757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy L. Wareing".

Tracy L. Wareing
Director

Attachment

cc: President Timothy S. Bee, Arizona State Senate
Speaker James P. Weiers, Arizona State House of Representatives
Secretary of State Janice K. Brewer
GladysAnn Wells, Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
DIVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Independent Living Program/Education 2007 Annual Report

Arizona Revised Statutes §8-521 establishes Arizona's Independent Living Program and supporting Educational Case Management Unit within the Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families.

The Independent Living Program and supporting Educational Case Management Unit provide important services that assist foster youth in setting and meeting educational and life skills goals and outcomes. These services are available to both teens who are currently in foster care as well as young adults ages 18 - 20 years who were in foster care when they were teenagers. Young adults over 17 years of age in the Independent Living Program may either be enrolled in post-secondary education or have completed graduation, attained a general equivalency diploma and choose to work full-time rather than pursue secondary education.

As required by A.R.S. §8-521(J), the following information is provided for calendar year 2007:
The number of youth in the Independent Living Program: On December 31, 2007, there were 1,481 youth in the Independent Living Program.

The number of youth in the program by age:

| Age | Number of Youth |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Under 13 | 3 |
| 13 | 4 |
| 14 | 28 |
| 15 | 77 |
| 16 | 309 |
| 17 | 508 |
| 18 | 325 |
| 19 | 145 |
| 20 | 82 |
| TOTAL | 1,481 |

The number of youth in the program by grade:

| Grade | Number of Youth |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 7 and below | 15 |
| 8 | 39 |
| 9 | 125 |
| 10 | 310 |
| 11 | 448 |
| 12 | 270 |
| Post-Secondary ¹ | 142 |
| Not in School ² | 132 |
| TOTAL | 1,481 |

¹ *Post secondary* education includes youth enrolled in colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade/technical schools.

² *Not in School* includes youth who have completed graduation, attained a general equivalency diploma, and youth who chose to work full-time rather than pursue post secondary education.

The number of youth in the program by county of residence:

| County | Number of Youth |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Apache | 8 |
| Cochise | 40 |
| Coconino | 37 |
| Gila | 10 |
| Graham | 7 |
| Greenlee | 2 |
| La Paz | 0 |
| Maricopa | 792 |
| Mohave | 22 |
| Navajo | 11 |
| Pima | 323 |
| Pinal | 94 |
| Santa Cruz | 4 |
| Yavapai | 96 |
| Yuma | 35 |
| TOTAL | 1,481 |

The number of youth in the program who graduated from high school in 2007: 141 youth

The number of youth in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2007: 57 youth

The number of youth in the program who are enrolled in post-secondary education: 142 youth
