



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

Linda J. Blessing, Ph.D.  
Interim Director

MAR 12 2009

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

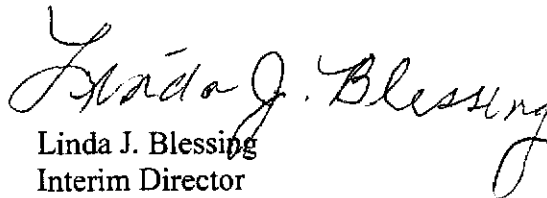
Arizona Revised Statutes § 8-521 requires the Department of Economic Security to prepare a report by March 1 of each year that contains the following information for the youth served through the Independent Living Program during the previous calendar year:

- 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 enclosed report.

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

Sincerely,

  
Linda J. Blessing  
Interim Director

Enclosure

cc: President Robert L. Burns, Arizona State Senate  
Speaker Kirk D. Adams, Arizona State House of Representatives  
Secretary of State Ken Bennett  
GladysAnn Wells, Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

**Department of Economic Security  
Division of Children, Youth and Families  
Independent Living Program/Education 2008 Annual Report**

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

The Independent Living Program and the 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 postsecondary education; or have completed graduation or attained a general equivalency diploma and chosen 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 2008:

*The number of youth in the Independent Living Program:* On December 31, 2008, there were 1,480 youth in the Independent Living Program.

*The number of children in the program by age:*

Age	Number of Children
Under 13	4
13	4
14	18
15	91
16	264
17	506
18	327
19	156
20	110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,480</b>

*The number of children in the program by grade:*

Grade	Number of Children
7 and below	6
8	12
9	64
10	210
11	432
12	385
Post-Secondary <sup>1</sup>	248
Not in School <sup>2</sup>	123
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,480</b>

*The number of children in the program by county of residence:*

County	Number of Children
Apache	10
Cochise	33
Coconino	34
Gila	12
Graham	2
Greenlee	1
La Paz	0
Maricopa	803
Mohave	29
Navajo	17
Pima	320
Pinal	90
Santa Cruz	6
Yavapai	81
Yuma	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,480</b>

*The number of children in the program who graduated from high school in 2008: 176 youth*

*The number of children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2008: 83 youth*

*The number of children in the program who are enrolled in post-secondary education: 248 youth*

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

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