



Division of Child Safety and Family Services

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Charles Flanagan
Director

February 27, 2014

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

Dear Governor Brewer:

Arizona Revised Statute § 8-521 requires the Department of Economic Security (DES) 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) 364-1503.

Sincerely,



Charles Flanagan
Director
Division of Child Safety & Family Services

Enclosure



Clarence Carter
Director
Department of Economic Security

cc: President Andy Biggs, Arizona State Senate
Speaker Andy Tobin, Arizona State House of Representatives
Secretary of State Ken Bennett
Joan Clark, Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records



**Independent Living Program – Education
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013**

Arizona Revised Statute §8-521 established Arizona's Independent Living Program and the supporting Educational Case Management Unit.

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 teens who are currently in foster care and are at least seventeen years of age and either employed or full-time students. In addition to supporting this population, the Educational Case Management Unit develops and coordinates educational case management plans for some younger youth.

The following information is provided for calendar year 2013:

On December 31, 2013, there were 1,483 youth in the Independent Living Program.

The number of children in the program by age:

Age	Number of Children
15	33
16	219
17	535
18	370
19	192
20	134
TOTAL	1,483

The number of children in the program by school grade:

School Grade	Number of Children
9	33
10	219
11	524
12	340
Post-Secondary ¹	269
Not in School ²	98
TOTAL	1,483

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, or chose to work full-time rather than pursue post-secondary education.

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

County	Number of Children
Apache	4
Cochise	9
Coconino	21
Gila	9
Graham	4
Greenlee	1
La Paz	1
Maricopa	943
Mohave	32
Navajo	18
Pima	285
Pinal	88
Santa Cruz	1
Yavapai	48
Yuma	19
TOTAL	1,483

During calendar year 2013:

- 197 youth graduated from high school;
- 123 youth received a general equivalency diploma; and
- 269 youth were enrolled in post-secondary education.

The Division of Child Safety and Family Services is pleased to report an increase of 22 youth who graduated from high school or received a general equivalency diploma during calendar year 2013 as compared to calendar year 2012. There was also an increase of 19 youth who were enrolled in post-secondary education during calendar year 2013 as compared to during calendar year 2012.

During calendar year 2014, the Division of Child Safety and Family Services' Independent Living Program and Educational Case Management Units will continue to work together to ensure that youth receive the necessary educational supports and services to assist them in transitioning to adulthood. These supports and services, along with the commitment of staff and dedicated adults, will contribute to the youth's success in the completion of secondary education, as well as help promote the young adult's pursuit of a post-secondary education.