

ANNUAL REPORT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DIVISION OF CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

A.R.S. § 46-139(E) requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information annually regarding the Housing Assistance Program. This report is for state fiscal year (SFY) 2008. Information provided is relative to the children and families that participate in the program.

To be eligible for the Housing Assistance Program, the following criteria must be met:

- At least one child in the home is a participant in an open Child Protective Services case;
- Housing assistance is needed to expedite a permanent placement for the child;
- Lack of safe and adequate housing is a significant barrier to family preservation, family reunification or achievement of the permanency plan for at least one child in the home;
- Family income, including entitlements, is insufficient to cover housing expenses;
- The family is willing to develop and participate in a time-oriented plan to maintain housing obtained through this program;
- The family has not previously received housing assistance from this program; and
- All other sources of assistance, including the Short Term Crisis Services program (STCS), have been fully explored and used before considering this program.

NUMBER SERVED

In state fiscal year 2008, the Housing Assistance Program served 2,841 children in 1,086 families statewide.

DISTRICT *	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
1	1,582	598
2	556	212
3	386	149
4	128	50
5	101	38
6	88	39
STATEWIDE TOTAL	2,841	1,086

* Counties by district

- **District # 1 – Maricopa**
- **District # 2 – Pima**
- **District # 3 – Yavapai, Coconino, Navaho, Apache**
- **District # 4 – La Paz, Mohave, Yuma**
- **District # 5 – Pinal, Gila**
- **District # 6 – Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz**

Cost of Service

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 46-139, housing assistance for each family for an incident shall not exceed \$1,800 during a six month period. The total amount expended statewide in state fiscal year 2008 was \$1,360,362.85.

DISTRICT	TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED
1	\$740,629.01
2	\$292,272.38
3	\$175,565.84
4	\$54,664.53
5	\$51,153.12
6	\$46,077.97
STATEWIDE TOTAL	\$1,360,362.85

Results of Service

The Housing Assistance Program improves the ability of the Arizona Department of Economic Security to ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children who are the subject of a Child Protective Services (CPS) report and investigation, or participants in an ongoing services case.

Benefits from the Housing Assistance Program provide families who have open Child Protective Services cases with one-time housing and utility assistance in order to provide for health, safety, and shelter needs when assistance is not available through other programs.

The Housing Assistance Program is available for families whose lack of safe and adequate housing is a significant barrier to family preservation or family reunification.

An estimated \$15,504,496 would have been expended by DES to pay for foster care maintenance excluding the personal & clothing allowances, if the 2,841 children who benefited from the Housing Assistance Program during state fiscal year 2008 had entered and remained in foster care for the length of time housing assistance was provided to each family. Based on the state fiscal year 2008 Housing Assistance Program Expenditures of \$1,360,363 there is a cost avoidance of \$14,144,133. The personal & clothing allowances would add between \$.63 and \$2.63 per day depending on the age of the child in care.