



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DIVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES STATE FISCAL YEAR 2012

A.R.S. § 46-139(E) requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) to make the following information regarding the Housing Assistance Program available to the public upon request and available on the Department's website:

- ❖ The number of children and families, by district*, receiving services through this program during the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ The total amount of monies spent on the program by district.
- ❖ A programmatic and fiscal evaluation of the effectiveness of this program which includes the amount of monies saved by reducing foster care expenditures.

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

- ❖ At least one child is a participant in an open Child Protective Services (CPS) 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;
- ❖ 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;
- ❖ All other sources of assistance, including the Short Term Crisis Services program (STCS), have been fully explored and used before considering this program; and
- ❖ The child's parent, guardian, or custodian is a United States (U.S.) citizen or is otherwise lawfully present in the U.S.

* DES now uses the term "region" instead of "district".

Number Served

In SFY 2012, the Housing Assistance Program served 941 children in 346 families statewide.

REGION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	224	84
Pima (Pima County)	281	109
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties)	129	44
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila Counties)	5	3
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	302	106
STATEWIDE TOTAL	941	346

Cost of Service

The total amount expended statewide for the Housing Assistance Program in SFY 2012 was \$478,116.53.

REGION	TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	\$119,865.92
Pima (Pima County)	\$156,455.24
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties)	\$53,762.80
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila Counties)	\$3,200.00
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	\$144,832.57
STATEWIDE TOTAL	\$478,116.53

Results of Service

The Housing Assistance Program greatly improves the ability of the ADES to ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children who are the subject of a CPS report and investigation, or participants in an ongoing services CPS case.

In a most cost-effective manner, the Housing Assistance Program provides families who have open CPS cases with needed housing and utility assistance in order to meet their health, safety, and shelter needs, when such 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.

In SFY 2012 the average length of stay in out-of-home placement prior to reunification was approximately 7 months. An estimated \$ 4,739,149 would have been expended by DES for foster care maintenance payments, if the 941 children who benefited from the Housing Assistance Program during SFY 2012 had entered or remained in foster care for the average length of stay of 7 months. Based on the SFY 2012 Housing Assistance Program expenditures of \$478,117, there is potential cost avoidance of \$4,261,032.
