



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM / EDUCATION 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Arizona Revised Statutes § 8-521 establishes Arizona's Independent Living Program and the supporting Educational Case Management Unit within the Department of Child Safety.

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 that are currently in foster care as well as young adults ages 18-20 years who were in foster care when they were teenagers. Services include individualized assistance to remove barriers to high school graduation (such as interventions for credit recovery, expediting enrollment, etc.) and to identify and enroll in post-secondary programs, including accessing scholarship and grant opportunities. Young adults over 17 years of age in the Independent Living Program may be continuing enrollment in a traditional or alternative secondary education program, 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 2016:

The number of youth in the Independent Living Program: On December 31, 2016, there were 1,717 youth in the Independent Living Program. The population of children represented in this annual report are children in out-of-home care age 16 and older with a primary or concurrent permanency goal of Independent Living.

The number of children in the program by age:

Age	Number of Children
16	255
17	545
18	453
19	263
20	201
TOTAL	1,717

The number of children in the program by grade:

Grade	Number of Children
Below 9	0
9	0
10	254
11	520
12	356
Secondary Programs ¹	152
Post-Secondary ²	280
Not in School ³	155
TOTAL	1,717

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

County	Number of Children
Apache	0
Cochise	27
Coconino	12
Gila	9
Graham	5
Greenlee	0
La Paz	4
Maricopa	1,136
Mohave	104
Navajo	5
Pima	235
Pinal	122
Santa Cruz	8
Yavapai	21
Yuma	29
TOTAL	1,717

Children in the program who graduated from high school in 2016: 290 youth

Children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2016: 81 youth

Children in the program that are enrolled in post-secondary education: 280 youth

¹ *Secondary Programs* includes 19 and 20 year olds enrolled in secondary level alternative, credit recovery, charter schools and GED Programs.

² *Post-secondary* education includes youth enrolled in colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade/technical schools.

³ *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.