



**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY**  
**ANNUAL SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES REPORT**

**State Fiscal Year 2018**

Pursuant to Laws 2018, Second Regular Session, Chapter 110, Section 4, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) consolidated two annual reports and one bi-annual report into a single annual report. Senate Bill 1518 amended A.R.S. § 8-526 to include the reporting requirements for the Bi-Annual Kinship Foster Care report, the Annual Independent Living Program Report and the Annual Housing Assistance Report. In order to align these reports, data presented are based on State Fiscal Year (SFY). While the elements required for each report remained the same, one additional item is required for the Kinship Foster Care section; namely the “type and cost of services provided to Kinship Foster Care families by licensed and unlicensed caregivers.

A.R.S. § 8-526(E) states that DCS shall make available the following information on an annual basis:

1. *The percentage of substantiations upheld by the office of administrative hearings (found in the [Semi-Annual Child Welfare Report](#)).*
2. The demographics and number of children placed with relative caregivers.
3. The demographics of kinship foster caregivers.
4. The number of relative children per kinship foster care family.
5. The department's success at maintaining kinship foster care placements.
6. The type and cost of services provided to kinship foster care families by licensed and unlicensed caregivers.
7. The cost of services provided to kinship foster caregivers compared to the cost of out-of-home placements.
8. The number of children and families, by district, receiving services through the housing assistance program during the previous fiscal year.
9. The total amount of money spent on the housing assistance program by region.
10. A programmatic and fiscal evaluation of the effectiveness of the housing assistance program that includes the amount of foster care expenditures avoided.
11. The number of children in the independent living program by age, county and education status.

**This report is divided into three sections:**

**[Kinship Foster Care](#).....1**  
**[Independent Living](#).....11**  
**[Housing Assistance](#).....13**

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**KINSHIP FOSTER CARE**

**Overview**

In 2018, Senate Bill 1518 amended Arizona Revised Statute § 8-526 to require the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to make available on an annual basis, information on the Kinship Foster Care Program including:

- The demographics and number of children placed with relative caregivers.
- The demographics of kinship foster caregivers.
- The number of relative children per kinship foster care family.
- The department's success at maintaining kinship foster care placements.
- The type and cost of services provided to kinship foster care families by licensed and unlicensed caregivers.
- The cost of services provided to kinship foster caregivers compared to the cost of out-of-home placements.

For generations, extended families have played significant roles in the rearing of children when parents otherwise cannot. Kinship caregivers provide love and nurturance in a familiar setting, allowing children to remain connected with their families. These children live with people they know and trust, thereby reinforcing the child's sense of cultural identity and well-being. Children living with kinship caregivers make and sustain extended family connections, promoting the continuation of lifelong family traditions and memories. The extended family provides opportunities that support the child in building healthy relationships within the family, ensures the child's safety and well-being, and creates a sense of stability in the child's life. Utilization of kinship foster caregivers reduces the financial impact to the State.

Arizona continues to utilize kinship foster care at a much greater rate than the national average of 32 percent. In SFY 2018, the rate was 44 percent.

**Arizona Kinship Foster Care Program Description<sup>1</sup>**

Arizona's Kinship Foster Care Program prioritizes relatives as the first placement preference for children in the custody of DCS who require out-of-home care. Relatives are the preferred placement because they maintain and promote lifelong family connections.

Kinship Foster Caregivers include adults related by blood and adults with whom the child has a significant relationship. With the overall decrease in Arizona's foster care population, the number of kinship foster caregivers (licensed and unlicensed) and children in kinship homes has decreased as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Data was extracted on 6-30-18 from the DCS case management system based upon an Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) data run for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

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***Licensed Kinship Foster Care*** is when a child is placed with a relative/kin who becomes licensed as a foster care provider. As of June 30, 2018, there were 473 kinship foster caregivers licensed as foster parents. This is a 27 percent decrease from the 647 licensed kinship foster caregivers reported in the previous, biannual report (SFY 2016). The out-of-home population overall in Arizona decreased by 20 percent between June 2016 and June 2018. The current 473 licensed kinship caregivers provide out-of-home care for 910 related foster children.

***Unlicensed Kinship Foster Care*** is when a child is placed with a relative/kin with court approval and the relative is not licensed as a foster care provider. As of June 30, 2018, there were 3,430 unlicensed kinship caregivers providing homes to related children in foster care. This is a 16.5 percent decrease from the 4,110 unlicensed kinship caregivers reported in the previous, biannual report (SFY 2016). The current 3,430 unlicensed kinship caregivers provide out-of-home care to 5,609 related foster children.

**Services Available to Kinship Foster Caregivers**

There are many services available to kinship foster caregivers and the children for whom they provide care. These services include the following:

- *Case management services* - Regular contact and communication with the kinship caregiver occurs to assess and identify needs of the child and family and to assist in developing solutions.
- *Health care coverage* – A medical and dental plan is provided to children through the Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP), which is an AHCCCS (Title XIX Medicaid) health plan.
- *Parent aide services* – Training in family life skills is provided by contracted agencies; parent aides may also provide transportation and/or supervise visitation with birth parents and their children.
- *Parent skills training* - Training is provided for kinship foster caregivers to enhance their parenting knowledge and skills.
- *Mental health and other supportive intervention services* – Counseling and other services may be provided through referrals to agencies for kinship foster caregivers and children needing intervention.
- *Transportation services* - Transportation for children to and from medical appointments and other necessary services is available.
- *Child care subsidy* - Child care can be provided for children with local state-approved entities; payment for services is subsidized if these services are deemed necessary.
- *Respite care* - Six days or up to 144 hours annually of respite care is available for kinship foster caregivers.
- *Referrals to other state programs* - Programs such as the Family Assistance Administration, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Job Service, and community resources for children and kinship foster caregivers are available through the Department of Economic Security (DES) and community agencies.
- *Arizona Families Thrive E-newsletter* – This monthly e-newsletter replaced the Arizona Statewide newsletter and provides information about educational opportunities, services and other information that support kinship foster caregivers. Caregivers sign-up to receive the newsletter by enrolling directly on the DCS website or calling the Warm-line.

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- *Kinship Information Sessions (KIS)* – Meetings are provided in Phoenix and Tucson to kinship foster caregivers, to inform them about the court system, resources, policies and foster care licensing.
- *Direct (1:1) assistance* – Support is provided to kinship caregivers through Central Office and region based staff to provide information, answer questions, provide guidance and general support, and to resolve payment and other issues. Caregivers who participate in the AZ Families Thrive conferences also receive education/training and the opportunity to meet with licensing agencies during this event.
- *Kinship Stipend* – This stipend provides an additional financial resource to eligible unlicensed kinship caregivers who have taken a related child(ren) who is in DCS custody into their home. The monthly stipend is \$75 per child for qualified caregivers.
- *Housing Assistance (page 13)* may be provided to a child’s family if the lack of adequate housing is a significant barrier preventing the child from reunifying or remaining with the child’s parent, or *remaining with a relative or kinship caregiver who will provide permanency for the child.*

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the types and costs of financial services provided to kinship foster care families by unlicensed and licensed caregivers.

**Table 1: Cost of Services by Unlicensed and Licensed Kin**

SERVICE	UNLICENSED KIN	LICENSED KIN
<b>Total Expenditures for SFY 018</b>		
Respite Care by Day	\$ 320.00	\$ 81,310.00
Respite Care by Hour	\$1,992.90	\$471,034.56
<b>Monthly Averages per Child</b>		
Foster Care Maintenance Payments	\$75.00 (Qualified -Unlicensed Grand Parent/Relative Stipend)	\$641.49
Personal Allowance	\$20.49	\$20.49
Clothing Allowance	\$22.75	\$22.75
Foster Care, Special 1 Rate *	n/a	\$117.12 (Qualified)
Foster Care, Special 2 Rate *	n/a	\$312.93 (Qualified)
Foster Care, Medically Fragile *	n/a	\$490.58 (Qualified)

\* Rate in addition to maintenance payment

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families<sup>2</sup>**

Kinship foster caregivers are encouraged to apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance (CA) to receive financial assistance for children in their care. Of the 6,519 children in kinship foster care on June 30, 2018, 2,124 or 32.6 percent were CA recipients in 1,251 households, averaging 1.70 eligible children per household.

<sup>2</sup> Data sources are Arizona Technical Eligibility Computer System (AZTECS) and Children's Informational Library and Data Source (CHILDS)

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In SFY 2018, the average monthly *household* TANF cash assistance payment was \$204.16, which is a \$2.27 increase over the SFY 2016 average monthly household CA payment of \$201.89. An additional 133 children were members of eligible households but were determined not eligible for benefits. Of those children, 10 children or 7 percent were benefit-capped.<sup>3</sup> Benefit-capped children are not eligible for TANF cash assistance regardless of the household in which they reside. An additional 26 children or 20 percent were denied benefits due to their receipt of Social Security benefits. The remaining 73 children were denied benefits for other reasons.

For SFY 2018, 45 percent of TANF cash assistance households in the kinship foster care program were headed by grandparents, 22 percent by aunts or uncles, and 33 percent by other relatives. This compares to 49 percent of TANF cash assistance households headed by grandparents, 23 percent by aunts or uncles, and 28 percent headed by other relatives in SFY 2016.

**Costs of Care Provided by the Department of Child Safety (DCS)**

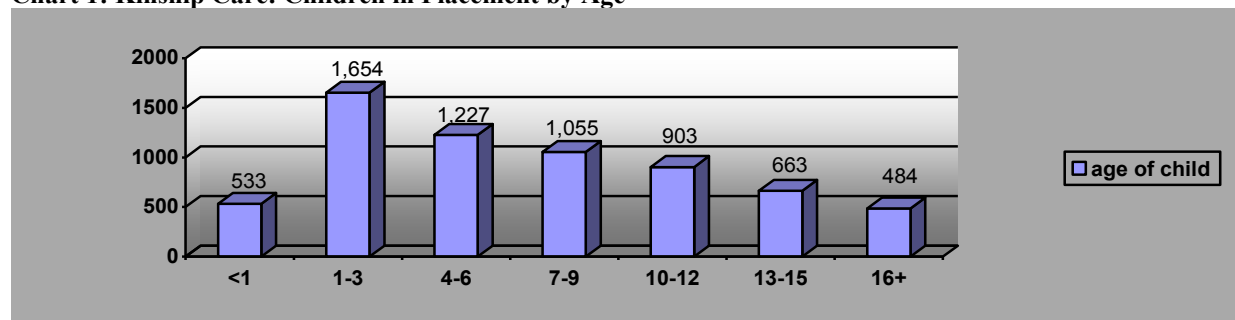
Financial assistance provided to kinship foster caregivers for the children in their care include foster care maintenance payments (for licensed kinship foster caregivers) and personal and clothing allowances (for both licensed and unlicensed relative caregivers).

The average monthly cost of foster care per child for children placed in kinship foster care (unlicensed) is \$43.24 which includes the personal and clothing allowances. Kinship caregivers may also be eligible for the monthly kinship stipend of \$75.00 per child/per month. This compares to an average monthly cost of family foster care (licensed kinship and licensed non-kinship) of \$684.73 per child. The average monthly cost of foster care for a child placed in a congregate care setting, such as a group home, is \$3,388 per child. These average monthly costs do not include expenditures related to DCS case management, child care, or other services provided to support the care of children in out-of-home placement.

**Demographic Data about Children in Kinship Foster Care**

As of June 30, 2018, there were 6,519 children in kinship foster care, which was 43 percent of the total out-of-home care population of 14,739 children.<sup>4</sup> The average age for children in kinship foster care was 6.9 years (compared to 7.1 SFY 2016). The largest percentage of children in kinship foster care, 26 percent (1,593), are between ages one and three. Chart 1 displays the number of children in placement by age.

**Chart 1: Kinship Care: Children in Placement by Age**



**N= 6,519**

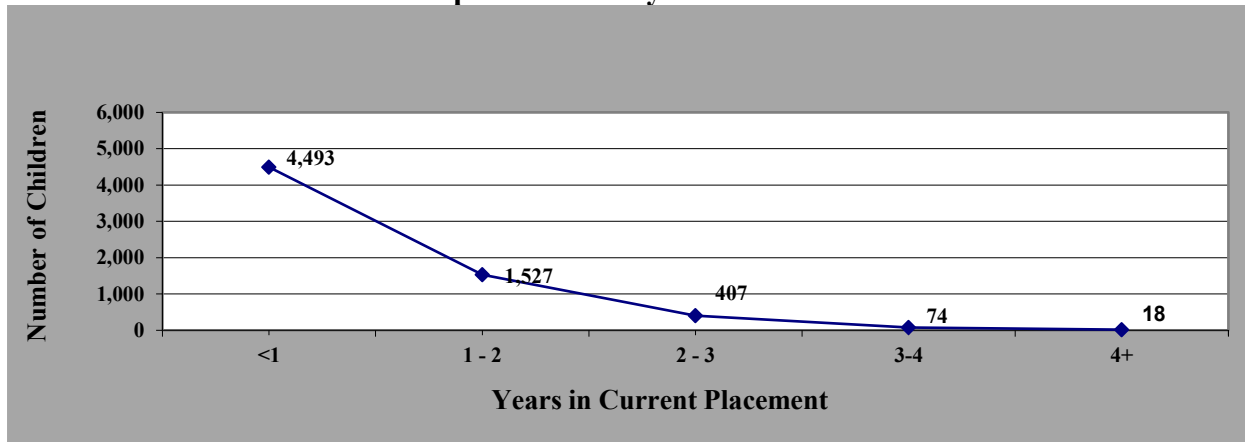
<sup>3</sup> The benefit cap was removed for children in the home of qualified relatives, effective 08-06-16.

<sup>4</sup> Run date for out-of-home population was 6/30/18. These figures are updated regularly in the DCS Monthly and Semi-Annual Reports.

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Children residing in kinship foster care on June 30, 2018 had spent 77 percent of their total time in out-of-home placement with their kinship foster care providers for less than one year before exiting out-of-home care or moving to a different living arrangement. This is a four percent decrease over SFY 2016 data. Most children in kinship foster care, 66 percent, lived with their kinship foster caregiver for less than one year. This represents a one percent decrease over SFY 2016 data for this category. The average number of children residing in a single kinship caretaker home is 1.6 children.

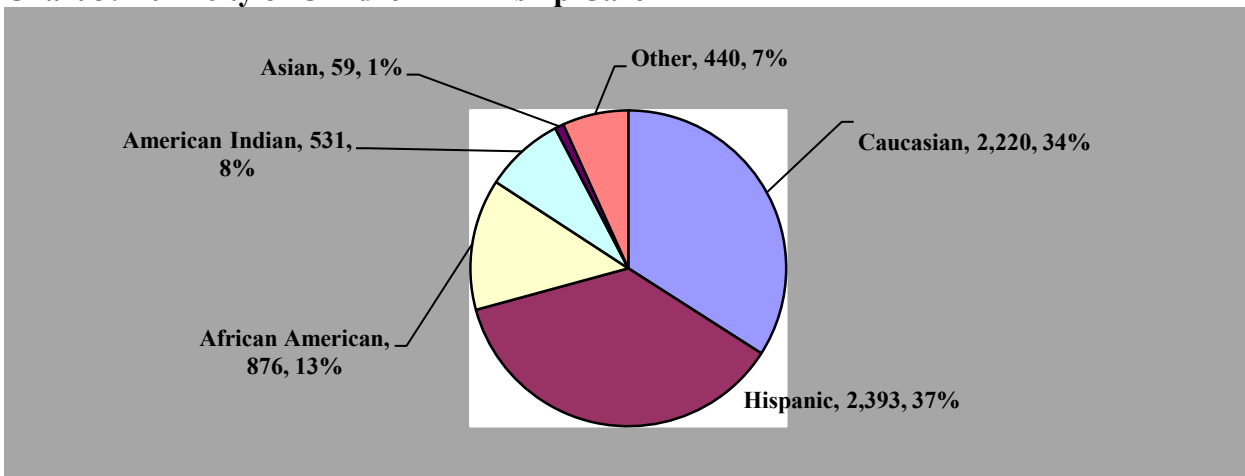
**Chart 2: Time in Current Kinship Placement by Years**



**N = 6,519**

Chart 3 displays the ethnicity of children in kinship foster care. Comparing SFY 2016 to 2018, the percentage of children who are Hispanic decreased by one percentage point. The percentage of Caucasian and African American children in kinship foster care remained the same. Forty-nine percent of children in kinship foster care are female and 51 percent are male.

**Chart 3: Ethnicity of Children in Kinship Care**

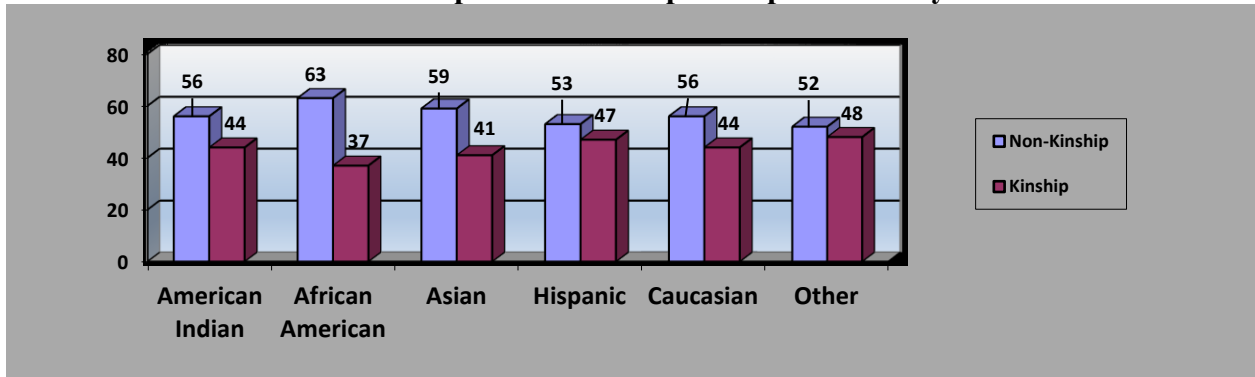


**N = 6,519**

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Chart 4 compares the percentage of all children in non-kinship versus kinship care, for each ethnicity. Hispanic children (47 percent) and children categorized as Hawaiian/Other (48 percent) were residing in kinship care are most likely to be placed with kin followed closely by American Indian and Caucasian children (44 percent). Slightly fewer Asian children (41 percent) and African American children (37 percent).

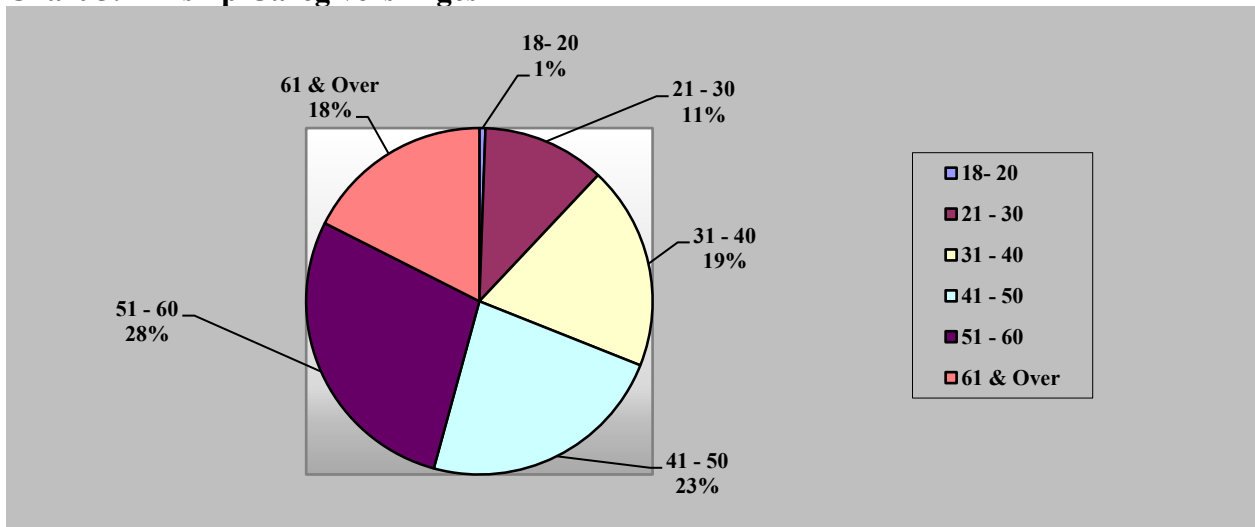
**Chart 4: Children in Non-Kinship versus Kinship Care per Ethnicity**



**Demographic Data of Kinship Foster Caregivers**

As of June 30, 2018, there were 3,903 kinship foster caregivers (licensed and unlicensed). This represents an 18 percent decrease from the 4,757 kinship foster caregivers in SFY 2016. Again, the out-of-home population overall in Arizona decreased by 20 percent between June 2016 and June 2018. Kinship foster caregivers over the age of 40 comprise 69 percent of all kinship foster caregivers. Chart 5 displays the percentages of kinship foster caregivers by age brackets.

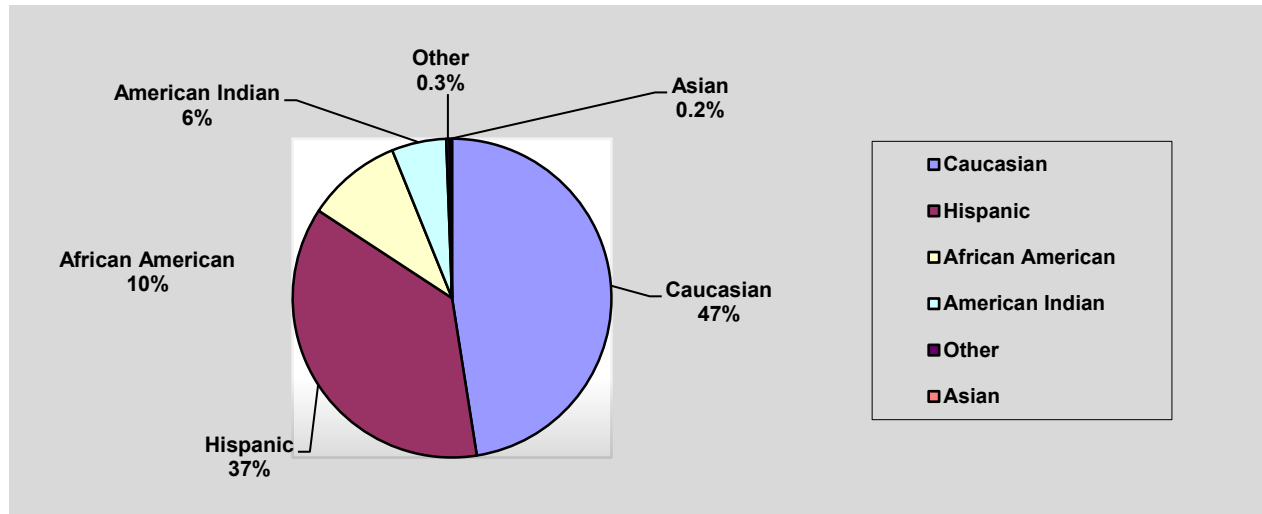
**Chart 5: Kinship Caregivers' Ages**



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Chart 6 displays the ethnicity of kinship foster caregivers.

**Chart 6: Kinship Foster Caregivers by Ethnicity**



N = 3,903

**Recommendations for Program Improvement and Report of Progress**

The Department of Child Safety (DCS) values and supports kinship foster caregivers. The Department has implemented or is in the process of implementing the following:

- DCS makes diligent efforts to identify and notify adult relatives of a child in out-of-home placement of the option to become a placement resource for the child within 30 days of the child's removal from their home. DCS continues to conduct searches for relatives prior to key decision points in the case. State policy directs staff to conduct searches no less frequently than once every six months.
- DCS continues to utilize Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings as a mechanism to identify prospective relative placements. From July 2017 through April 2018, 6,556 TDMs were held throughout Arizona. 85.8% of these TDMs were attended by at least one parent. 53% were attended by at least one relative associated with the case. The total number of children discussed at these meetings was 10,414. Of those children, out of home placement (including 90-day voluntary foster care agreements) was recommended for 4,263 or 41% of the children. Of the total number of children recommended for out of home placement, a relative was identified for 79.7% of them. Of the total number of children discussed during all meeting types (10,414), relative placements were identified for 33%. (source: TDM database).
- As part of the title IV-E waiver demonstration project, Fostering Sustainable Connections (FSC) Family Engagement Specialists, whose job duties include searching for relatives and kin, were given access to person search software, Lexus Nexus. It is believed this



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software will greatly increase the number of relatives and kin located for children in congregate care settings. Other aspects of FSC support relative and kinship identification as well, including:

- Family Engagement Specialists who identify and locate relatives and kin important to the children for emotional support and possible placement;
  - TDM meetings to identify and transition youth who are placed in congregate care into family-like settings; and
  - the availability of in-home, behavioral health, and other community services to assist with transitioning the children to less restrictive placements and support any kinship placements identified.
- DCS continues to provide kinship foster care families with necessary information and resources to ensure that the child(ren) placed with kin are properly cared for and kin are supported, reducing the trauma to children entering out-of-home care. In the Phoenix area, kinship home studies are conducted by Southwest Human Development (SWHD) through a contract with the Department. SWHD continues to conduct approximately 200 home studies per month.
- Department staff conduct outreach activities through phone calls, mailings, and in-person information sessions to inform kin about their roles as foster caregivers, and provide critical information on meeting the needs of the children in their care. The CMDP continues outreach to all caregivers within seven days of placement, to ensure they are aware of timeframes for required health care checkups, immunizations, etc., and to encourage caregivers to contact CMDP Member Services with questions. The CMDP continues to make available a quarterly statewide newsletter to all kinship caregivers. In addition, the Kinship Foster Care booklet continues to be distributed and is available in English and Spanish. The booklet was revised in 2017 and provides extensive information for kinship caregivers, including DCS expectations for the care and supervision of children in DCS care, benefits and services available to children in their care, licensing process and waivers, and information about other pertinent subjects.
- The Statewide Kinship Specialist also monitors regional efforts and provides support through technical assistance and training statewide. Examples of current efforts include the following:
- The Southeast Region continues to support kin placements by having a designated case aide in each field office visit each new kinship home to offer information on resources, available assistance, and the dependency process. The case aide meets with the families one week after initial placement, ten days after that, and then monthly as needed.
  - The Pima Region Kinship Liaison Support Unit provides support to all kin placements in Pima County. The support centers on helping families to access resources and complete the fingerprint process timely. The assigned liaison meets with the family within five days of receiving the referral, and conducts follow up visits every 30 days for three months.

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- The Statewide Placement Administration was formed in 2017. This administration coordinates requests for licensed placements for children in out-of-home care as well as supports kinship caregivers by providing or directing kin to tangible resources including emergency food, clothing, beds, infant care items, etc., and has provided assistance to struggling kinship caregivers to help resolve barriers to maintaining children in their homes. This administration has hired two Kinship Specialists who conduct outreach and support to kinship caregivers in Maricopa County, and with plans to expand this service as positions become available.
- The Arizona Foundation of Human Service Providers entered into a three-year partnership with Dr. Bruce Perry from the Child Trauma Academy to create a webinar series and an online resource library for foster parents and kinship families based on the Neurosequential Model in Caregiving. This program provides monthly webinars for caregivers such as foster parents, kinship, and adoptive families to train them to parent children who have experienced trauma. The webinars are archived for viewing at any time. The program is also training 35 child welfare and behavioral health staff who will become trainers in the Neurosequential Model. These trainers will be available to train foster parents and kinship families in this model in the future.
- DCS Specialists are encouraged to discuss the importance of foster home licensure with relative caregivers at the time of placement and subsequent to placement. On a case-by-case basis, the Department works with the Office of Licensing and Regulation and contracted licensing agencies to grant waivers of non-safety related licensing standards that would prevent kinship caregivers from becoming licensed. The waivers most often relate to some aspect of the sleeping arrangements to accommodate sibling groups. A smaller number relate to income requirements or certain flexibilities needed to complete necessary training. During this reporting period, 161 waivers were granted to allow 389 children to remain in kinship homes that became licensed. Sixty-two (62) of these waivers were granted to grandparents or great-grandparents. Thirty-five (35) of the waivers were for single child placements, with the remaining 126 waivers provided to kin caring for sibling groups.
- The Department continues to partner with the Department of Economic Security's Family Assistance Administration (FAA) to process TANF Cash Assistance applications. DCS and FAA maintain designated staff that coordinate and assist with applications, and the process for kinship families to apply for benefits has been improved to decrease errors and delays. A centralized eligibility determination process developed in 2016 continues and includes a unique e-mail address for applications. State legislation in 2016 lifted the TANF "benefit cap" that previously prevented a child from receiving TANF if his or her mother was receiving cash assistance at the time she gave birth to a child. This new law, which became effective August 6, 2016, removed the TANF cap for dependent children residing in the home of a qualified relative.

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- The Care Portal connects DCS families to local churches who want to serve their communities by providing basic goods and services to families in an effort to keep families together, reunify families, and support kinship placements. This is a secondary and tertiary prevention program, in as much as it serves all DCS families as well as young adults who are aging out of foster care. The Care Portal addresses a large range of needs, such as cribs, beds, furniture, home or car repairs, and assistance eliminating lice. The Care Portal program was expanded this past year and currently provides services and goods to families in Pima, Maricopa, and Yuma Counties.
  
- The Department is continuing active efforts to support kinship foster caregivers so foster children placed in their care thrive. The Arizona Legislature has expanded the "Grandparent Stipend", now called the "Kinship Stipend", to include all kinship families. The Arizona Legislature also increased the annual appropriation for this stipend from \$1 million to \$2 million so that more kinship foster caregivers could benefit from receiving this monthly stipend. As of June 30, 2018, this monthly stipend (\$75 per child) was being provided to kinship caregivers caring for an average of 3,107 children per month.

**Conclusion**

Kinship foster care accounts for 44 percent of the children in out-of-home care in Arizona. This percentage continues to exceed the national average of 32 percent and is reflective of Arizona's commitment to prioritize kin as the first preference for children who require out-of-home placement. Most notable is the change in the average age of Arizona's kinship caregivers over the last two years. The percentage of caregivers age 41 and older decreased slightly from 74 percent to 69 percent. The percentage of caregivers under the age of 41 increased from 26 percent to 31 percent. These shifts gives causes for the Department to consider how to deliver information and services; potentially providing enhanced opportunities to use advanced technologies that may be more aligned with the needs and communication style of this population. The Department will continue to expand efforts to examine and provide for the needs of kinship caregivers through partnerships with local community agencies as well as other state agencies.

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**INDEPENDENT LIVING**

A.R.S § 8-521 establishes Arizona's Independent Living Program and the supporting Educational Case Management Unit within DCS.

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. Educational services are available to teens that are currently in foster care as well as young adults ages 18-20 years who were in foster care on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. 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 enrolled 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 school year 2017 – 2018 (SY17-18).

***The number of youth in the Independent Living Program***

On June 30, 2018, there were 1,663 youth in the Independent Living Program. The population of youth represented in this annual report are youth in out-of-home care age 16 and older with a primary or concurrent permanency goal of Independent Living as of June 30, 2018.

***The number of youth in the program by age***

Age	Number of Youth
16	249
17	535
18	423
19	254
20	202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,663</b>

***The number of youth in the program by grade***

Grade	Number of Youth
Below 9	0
9	0
10	246
11	508
12	367
Secondary Programs <sup>5</sup>	98
Post-Secondary <sup>6</sup>	286
Not in School <sup>7</sup>	158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,663</b>

<sup>5</sup> *Secondary Programs* includes 19 and 20 year olds enrolled in secondary level alternative, credit recovery, charter schools and GED Programs.

<sup>6</sup> *Post-secondary* education includes youth enrolled in colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade/technical schools

<sup>7</sup> *Not in school* includes youth who have completed graduation, attained a general equivalency diploma, and chose to work full-time rather than pursue post-secondary education.

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*The number of youth in the program by county of residence*

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Youth</b>
Apache	3
Cochise	30
Coconino	14
Gila	4
Graham	4
Greenlee	0
La Paz	3
Maricopa	1,111
Mohave	129
Navajo	1
Pima	199
Pinal	101
Santa Cruz	3
Yavapai	23
Yuma	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,663</b>

*School Year 2017-2018*

<b>Educational Status</b>	<b>Number of Youth</b>
<i>Graduated From High School</i>	218
<i>Received a General Equivalency Diploma</i>	67
<i>Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education</i>	286
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>571</b>

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**HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

A.R.S. § 8-526(E) requires DCS to make available the following information on an annual basis regarding the Housing Assistance Program:

1. The number of children and families, by district, receiving services through the housing assistance program during the previous fiscal year.
2. The total amount of money spent on the housing assistance program by region.
3. A programmatic and fiscal evaluation of the effectiveness of the housing assistance program that includes the amount of foster care expenditures avoided.

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

1. At least one child is a participant in an open Department of Child Safety (DCS) case.
2. Housing assistance is needed to expedite a permanent placement for the child.
3. 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.
4. Family income, including entitlements, is insufficient to cover housing expenses.
5. The family is willing to develop and participate in a time-oriented plan to maintain housing obtained through this program.
6. All other sources of assistance have been fully explored and used before considering this program.

**Number Served**

In SFY 2018, the Housing Assistance Program served 840 children in 323 families.

<b>REGION</b>	<b>NUMBER of CHILDREN</b>	<b>NUMBER of FAMILIES</b>
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	241	90
Pima (Pima County)	167	63
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache)	45	22
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila)	16	9
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	371	139
<b>STATEWIDE TOTAL</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>323</b>

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**Cost of Service**

The total amount expended statewide for the Housing Assistance Program in SFY 2018 was \$440,504.68.

REGION	TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	\$120,361.97
Pima (Pima County)	\$90,268.15
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache)	\$25,753.98
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila)	\$12,730.87
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	\$191,389.71
<b>STATEWIDE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$440,504.68</b>

**Results of Service**

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

In a cost-effective manner, the Housing Assistance Program provides families who have open DCS cases with needed housing and utility assistance to meet their health, safety, and shelter needs, when such assistance is not available through other programs.

In SFY 2018, the average length of stay in out-of-home placement prior to reunification was 320 days (10.50 months). An estimated \$6,039,318.60 would have been expended by DCS (see Table 3) for foster care maintenance payments (licensed foster home plus the personal and clothing allowances) at an average cost of \$684.73 per month/per child if the 840 children (see Table 2) who benefited from the Housing Assistance Program during SFY 2018 had entered or remained in foster care for the average length of stay of 10.50 months. Based on the SFY 2018 Housing Assistance Program expenditures of \$440,504.68, there is potential cost avoidance of \$5,598,813.92.

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Table 2 displays the number of children who benefitted from the Housing Assistance Program and the average monthly cost of licensed foster care, which includes maintenance payment, and personal and clothing allowances.

**Table 2: Number of Children and Average Monthly Cost**

Total Number of Children Benefited	840
Licensed Foster Home Monthly Average	\$684.73

Table 3 displays the estimated expenditures DCS would have expended on foster care payments if the children benefitting from the program had been in foster for 10.5 months. It also displays the total expenditures for SFY18 for the Housing Assistance Program and the potential cost avoidance.

**Table 3: Cost Avoidance**

Estimated DCS Expenditures for 10.50 Months	\$6,039,318.60
Housing Assistance Program Expenditures	\$440,504.68
Program Potential Cost Avoidance	\$5,598,813.92