



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

State Fiscal Year 2022

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 8-526\(E\)](#), the Department of Child Safety (DCS) is required to provide information on kinships caregivers, housing assistance program, and the education training voucher and independent living program. The supportive programs outlined in this report are critical to helping the Department achieve its mission to successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency. These programs support youth, kinship caregivers and assist youth prepare for adulthood.

[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:

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KINSHIP FOSTER CARE

Overview

Pursuant to [Arizona Revised Statute § 8-526](#), the Department of Child Safety (DCS) is required 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; and
- The cost of services provided to kinship foster caregivers compared to the cost of out-of-home placements.

This report is submitted in satisfaction of this requirement.

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.

Arizona continues to utilize kinship foster care at a much greater rate than the national average of 32 percent¹. As of June 30, 2022, the percentage of children and youth placed with a relative (licensed and unlicensed) was 49 percent, a three-percentage point decrease from 52 percent in SFY 2021².

Arizona Kinship Foster Care Program Description³

Arizona's Kinship Foster Care Program prioritizes relatives as the first caregiver preference for children in the custody of DCS who require out-of-home care. Kinship care is the preferred living arrangement because they maintain and promote lifelong family connections. Compared to other living arrangements, kinship care is generally a less costly option for a child in the custody of the state.

Kinship Caregivers include relatives and adults with whom the child has a significant relationship. With the overall decrease in Arizona's foster care population from over 19,000 in 2016 to less than

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *The AFCARS Report*, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcarsreport27.pdf> (accessed 29 October 2021).

² Data was extracted on 11-4-21 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, 2022.

³ *Ibid.*

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13,000 in June 2022, the number of foster caregivers (licensed and unlicensed) providing a family like setting has decreased; likewise, the number of kinship caregivers have decreased (licensed and unlicensed). The number of children less than eighteen years of age in out-of-home (OOH) care on June 30, 2022 was 11,632 compared to 13,573 on June 30, 2021, which is a 14 percent decrease. The number of licensed foster homes in June 2022 was 2,864 compared to 3,450 in June 2021, which is a 17 percent decrease. It is also important to note that the Department continued its work to maximize available bed space and reduce costs by reviewing foster homes who become licensed but have chosen not to utilize their home to provide foster care. When appropriate, these licenses were allowed to expire.

Licensed Kinship Care is when a child is placed with a relative/kin who becomes licensed as a foster care provider. As of June 30, 2022, there were 142 kinship caregivers licensed as foster parents. The current 142 licensed kinship caregivers provide out-of-home care for 235 children in foster care. The Department has been reviewing data quality issues related to the relationship between a licensed kinship providers and child or youth placed in the caregiver home. Efforts to review data continues and will be updated in future iterations of this report.

Unlicensed Kinship Care is when a child is placed with a relative/kin with court approval and the caregiver is not licensed as a foster care provider. As of June 30, 2022, there were 3,574 unlicensed kinship caregivers providing homes to children in foster care. This is a 9.8 percent decrease from the 3,962 unlicensed kinship caregivers reported in the SFY 2021 annual report. The current 3,574 unlicensed kinship caregivers provide out-of-home care to 5,439 children in foster care.

Overall, there has been a nineteen percent decrease in licensed and unlicensed kinship caregivers over the past fiscal year. There were 4,585 kinship caregivers in June 2021 compared to 3,716 in June 2022. However, as mentioned above, there has also been a 14 percent decrease in children in out-of-home care.

Services Available to Licensed and Unlicensed Kinship 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* – An integrated medical, dental and behavioral health plan is provided to children through the Mercy Care DCS Comprehensive Health Plan (CHP), which is an AHCCCS (Title XIX Medicaid) health plan.
- *Supervised Parenting Time Services* – provided to help maintain parenting time (visitation) and other types of contact while children are in DCS custody. Transportation of the children and supervision of the interactions between family members are provided to ensure the child’s safety. S.
- *Parent skills training* - Training is provided for kinship foster caregivers to enhance their parenting knowledge and skills.

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- *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.
- *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.

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

Financial assistance provided to kinship foster caregivers for the children in their care includes foster care maintenance payments (for licensed kinship foster caregivers), personal and clothing allowances (for both licensed and unlicensed relative caregivers), diaper allowances (for unlicensed kinship caregivers caring for children under the age of three), and the Kinship Stipend (for unlicensed kinship caregivers).

As shown in Table 1 below, the diaper allowance is \$62.50 per month/per eligible child and the Kinship Stipend was \$75.00 per month/ per child for unlicensed kinship caregivers. The amount allotted for personal allowances is \$20.49 per month for unlicensed kinship caregivers. The allotted amount for clothing allowances is \$22.75 per month. The total amount allotted is \$118.24 per child for kinship caregivers (\$180.74 per child if diapers are provided). This compares to an average monthly cost of family foster care (licensed kinship and licensed non-kinship) of \$653.33 per child. The average monthly cost of foster care for a child placed in a congregate care setting, such as a group home, is \$4,092 per child. These average monthly costs do not include expenditures related to DCS case management, childcare, or other services provided to support the care of children in out-of-home care. The kinship stipend increased to \$300 per month effective July 1, 2022.

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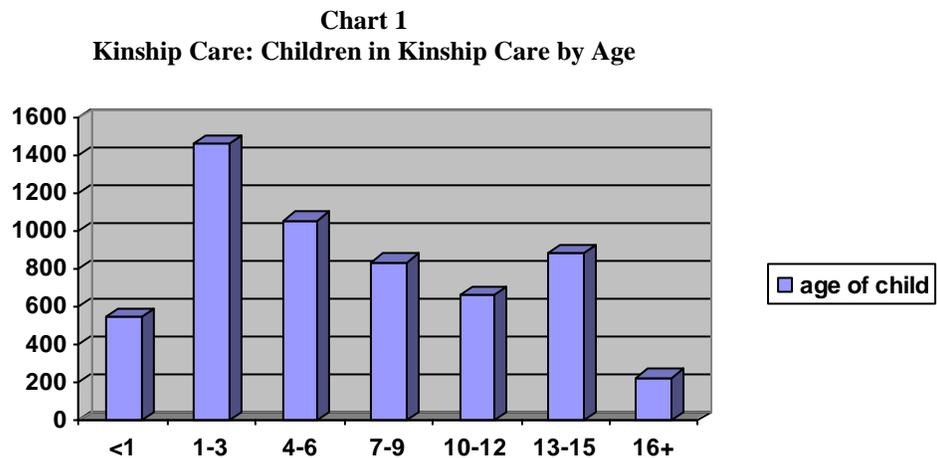
Table 1 (Monthly Allotted Rates per Child in SFY 2022)

Service	Unlicensed Kinship	Licensed Kinship	Licensed Non-Kinship
Foster Care Maintenance Payments (0-11 year olds)	\$75.00 (Kinship Stipend)	\$610.09 (\$19.68 per day)	\$610.09 (\$19.68 per day)
Foster Care Maintenance Payments (12-17 year olds)	\$75.00 (Kinship Stipend)	\$841.65 (\$27.15 per day)	\$841.65 (\$27.15 per day)
Personal Allowance	\$20.49	\$20.49	\$20.49
Clothing Allowance	\$22.75	\$22.75	\$22.75
Foster Care/Stipend, Personal and Clothing Allowances combined (0-11 year olds)	\$118.24	\$653.33	\$653.33
Foster Care/Stipend, Personal and Clothing Allowances combined (12-17 year olds)	\$118.24	\$884.89	\$884.89
Diaper Allowance	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50
Foster Care/Stipend, Diaper, Personal and Clothing Allowances combined (0-11 year olds)	\$180.74	\$715.83	\$715.83
Foster Care/Stipend, Diaper, Personal and Clothing Allowances combined (12-17 year olds)	\$180.74	\$947.39	\$947.39

Demographic Data about Children in Kinship Care

As of June 30, 2022, there were 5,674 children in licensed and unlicensed kinship care, which was 49 percent of the total out-of-home care population of 11,632 children ages zero to seventeen years of age. The average age for children in kinship care was 6.8 years. The largest percentage of children in kinship care, 26 percent (1,462), are between ages one and three.

Chart 1 displays the number of children in kinship care by age:

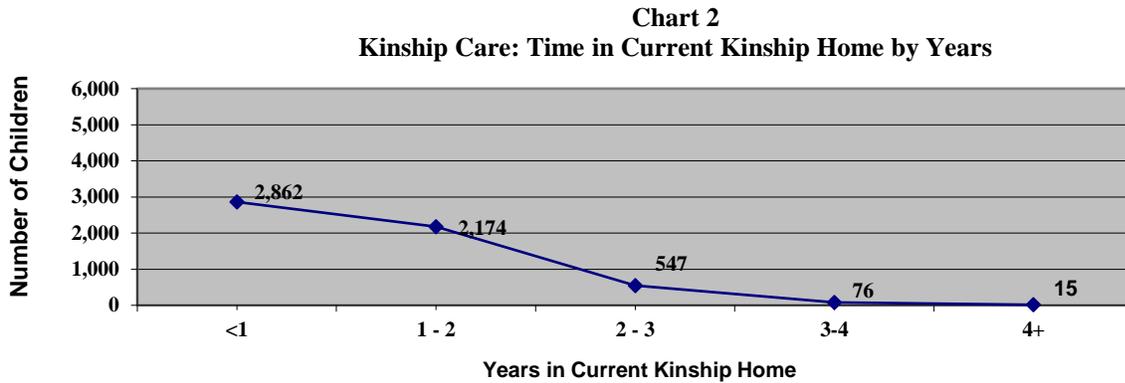


N= 5,674

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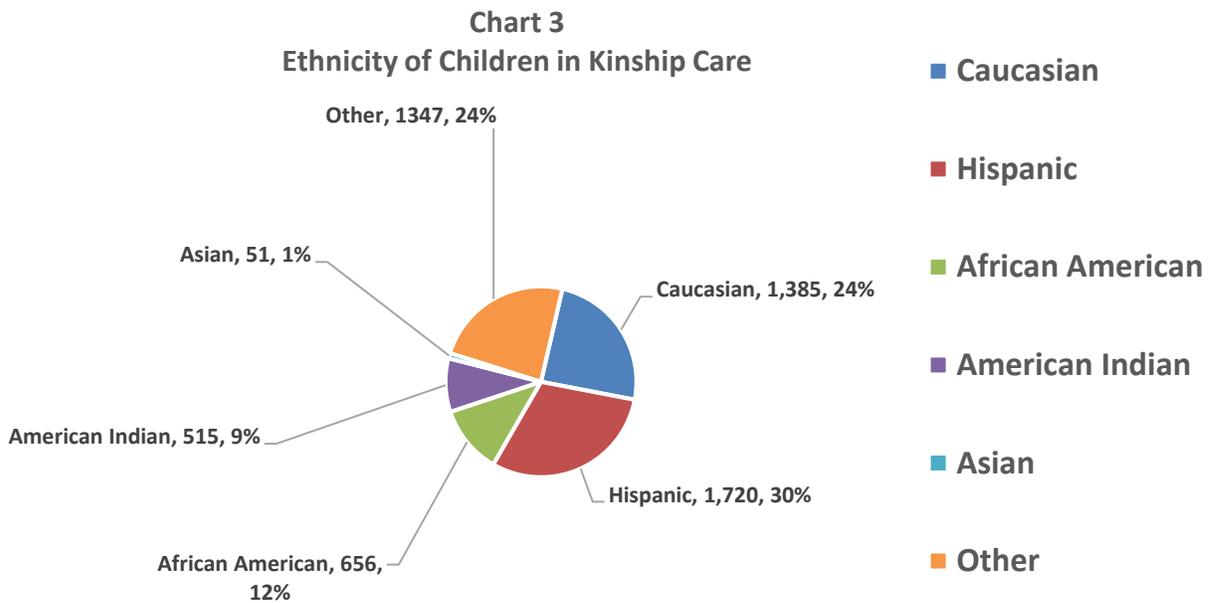
Of children in kinship care as of June 30, 2022, almost 90 percent had been with their kin for two years or less.

Chart 2 displays time in current kinship home by years:



N = 5,674

Chart 3 displays the ethnicity of children in kinship care. Comparing SFY 2021 to SFY 2022, the ethnicity of children in kinship care remained consistent. 50.2 percent of children in kinship care are female, 49.8 percent are male.



N = 5,674

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Demographic Data of Kinship Caregivers

As of June 30, 2022, there were 3,716 kinship caregivers. This is a 19 percent decrease from the 4,585 kinship caregivers in SFY 2021. Kinship caregivers over the age of 40 comprise 67 percent of all kinship foster caregivers.

Chart 4 displays the percentages of kinship caregivers by age brackets:

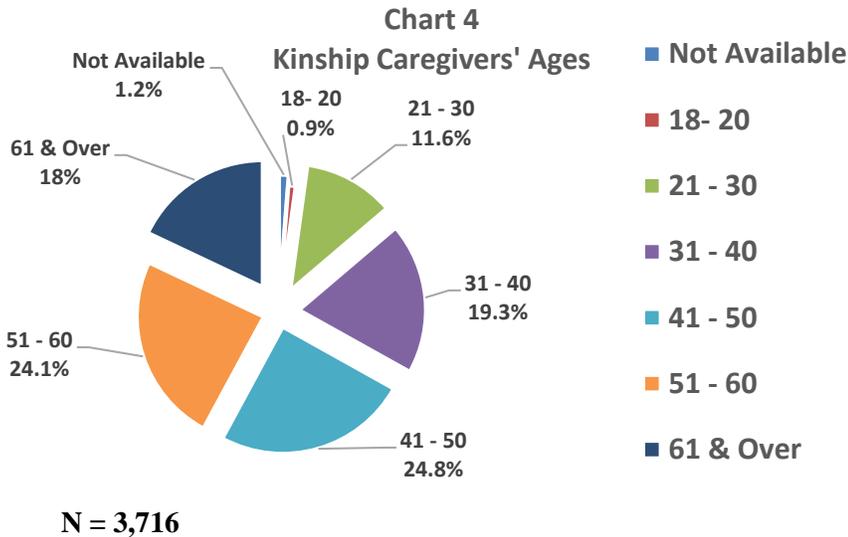
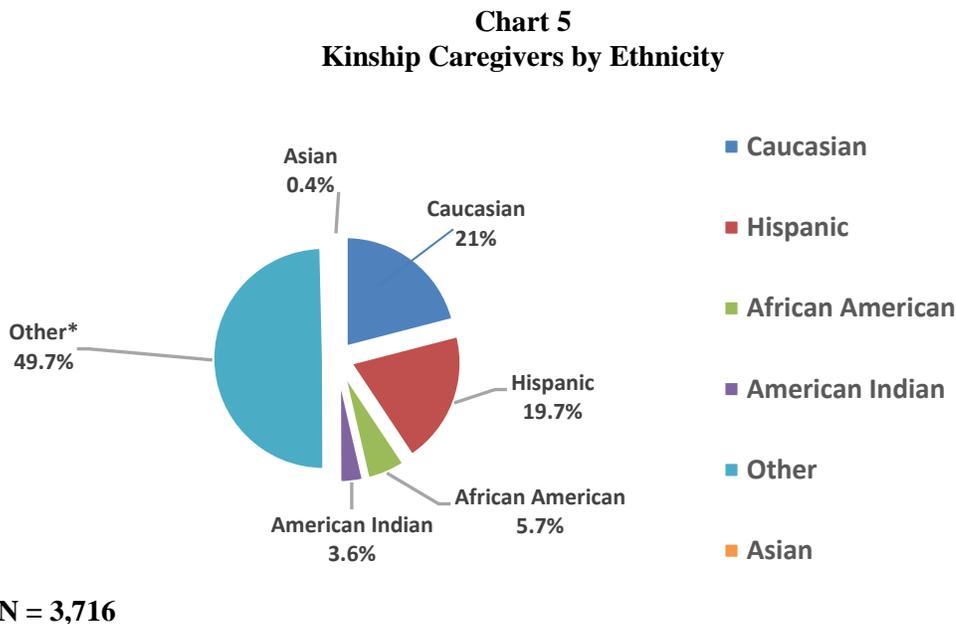


Chart 5 displays the ethnicity of kinship caregivers.



- The Department continues to diligently address data quality issues and will continue to update data as issues are identified and resolved. This data element will be updated and resubmitted in future iterations of this report.

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Efforts to Achieve Success at Maintaining Kinship Caregivers Placements

The Department of Child Safety (DCS) values and supports our kinship caregivers. The Department has implemented the following:

During SFY 2022, the Kinship Program Supervisors and Kinship Support Specialists continued their efforts to support field staff to place children with kin and maintain kinship caregiver living arrangements. During the 2022 legislative session, the kinship monthly stipend was approved to be increased from \$75.00 to \$300.00 per youth or child in an unlicensed kinship caregiver home. Additionally, legislation was passed that allows the Department to waive fingerprint clearance requirements when a good cause exists.

The Statewide Placement Administration (SPA) was formed in 2017. This administration coordinates requests for licensed caregivers for children in out-of-home care; supports kinship caregivers by providing or directing kin to tangible resources including emergency food, clothing, beds, infant care items, etc., and provided assistance to struggling kinship caregivers to help resolve barriers to maintaining children in their homes. Under the SPA, Kinship Support Specialists (KSS) conduct outreach and support to kinship caregivers. Kinship Engagement Support Specialists (KESS) at the SPA support field staff in seeking connections and/or kinship caregivers for children and youth recently entering into care.

There are two statewide KESS that find and engage potential relatives with children in care. Once relatives are engaged and inquire about being considered for a child's caregiver, the KESS completes several actions for field staff. The KESS completes criminal background checks, attends the TDM with field staff, assists with the kinship home assessment, and drafts the motion for change of physical custody (CPC). Once the CPC is ordered by the juvenile court, the KESS completes the placement and Kinship Support actions to include the 30, 50 and 80 day follow-up to ensure their needs are being met. The kinship support closes the kinship caregiver at 80 days. The kinship support team will accept and assist kinship caregivers after the 80 days. The Kinship Specialists provide preliminary information for an unlicensed kinship family as well as connecting the family to services and material items they may need or require. There are six Kinship Support Case Aides that assist with TANF benefits and delivery of material items obtained.

DCS has also made efforts to strengthen relationships with community organizations that support kinship caregivers to ensure they have the most accurate and up to date information about the DCS Kinship Program. KSS Supervisors attend a collaborative monthly meeting with community organizations to ensure there is up to date information about new and changing resources for kinship caregivers. This meeting is also utilized to remain informed about community actions related to kinship caregivers. Kinship Supervisors and Specialists attend the collaborative meeting which is facilitated by AVIVA Children's Services. The group is kept apprised of community events and support groups happening for our kinship caregivers.

KSS and KESS conduct outreach activities through phone calls, mailings, and in-person information sessions to inform kin about their role as a foster caregiver, and provide critical information on meeting the needs of the children in their care. The DCS Mercy Care Comprehensive Health Plan (CHP) continues its outreach to caregivers when children are placed

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in their homes, which includes assistance with appointment scheduling, follow up with specialty health care providers, referrals to other community/agency resources, and care coordination with caregivers and health providers for children/youth with special health care needs. Caregivers receive contact information so they may contact DCS Mercy Care CHP Member Services should any issues or concerns arise or simply need to know what their rights are in accessing services for the children in their care. In addition, DCS Mercy Care CHP Liaisons refer kinship caregivers directly to Kinship Support depending on their needs. During SFY 2022, CHP referred 683 Kinship Caregivers for Kinship Support.

KSS and KESS procured and delivered 1,010 items including, but not limited to, bedding, backpacks/cinch bags/luggage, beds, birthday presents, Birthday-in-a-Bag (cake mix, frosting, birthday banner, candles, pin, balloons and cake pans), books, car seats, cleaning wipes, clothes/underwear/socks/shoes, cribs, diapers, food box, hygiene bags and kits, Kinship Packet, Licensing Kit, lockbox, free tickets for entertainment activities, pool fence, pull-ups, school supplies, toys, wipes. KSS and KESS provided, referred or coordinated 1,037 services, including but not limited to, Arizona Friends of Foster Care requests, special allowances, behavioral health, billing paperwork, court hearing, daycare or afterschool care, fingerprint, foster licensing, guardianship/adoption information, housing, kinship folder, Notice to Provider, Passport, caregiver portal access, school lunch, service requests and authorizations, social security benefits and SSN requests, TANF referrals (731) and WIC referrals. Kinship support teams worked in collaboration with the payment processing unit to reconcile unpaid claims for 3,309 kinship caregivers.

The Kinship Foster Care booklet and Go-To-Guide continue to be distributed and is available in English and Spanish. The booklet was revised June 2022 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 Support Supervisors monitor regional efforts and provide support through technical assistance and training, statewide. Examples of current efforts include the following:

- Kinship Support teams work collaboratively to meet the unique needs of kinship caregivers residing in rural areas of the state.
- The Department applied for the Kinship Navigator Program Grant in the Spring of 2021. In October 2021, DCS was awarded this grant.
- The Department established and coordinated focus groups for A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI) to gather information to inform kinship support practices and policy. DCS collaborated with ASCI to complete a Kinship Strengths Assessment-Professional Version (KSA-PV). The results of this assessment will inform operationalizing solutions to provide exceptional support to kinship families.
- Kinship Support Specialists and Supervisors provide Information Sessions to DCS staff during monthly Regional meetings throughout the year. These sessions provide an

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overview of the activities required to secure a kinship caregiver, and the delivery of support services. Sessions also emphasize the importance of understanding the kinship perspective, and builds sensitivity regarding the involvement of child welfare with the family and other issues. 33 presentations were delivered to staff statewide during SFY 2022.

DCS updated standard work and a statewide Caregiver Assessment Tool (CAT) to be used by the Statewide Placement Team to aide in the living arrangement decision making process for children requiring out-of-home care. The assessment tool takes many factors into account, including if a kin caregiver is available to care for the child, the child's behaviors and special needs, if the child is part of a sibling group, and if a previous out-of-home caregiver is available to care for the child. DCS policy outlines the importance of diligent efforts to identify and notify all adult relatives and adults with significant relationships to the child of their option to become the living arrangement for the child in out-of-home care, within 30 days of the child's removal. DCS continues to conduct searches for relatives prior to key decision points in the case. State policy directs staff to conduct searches at least once every six months.

The Department continues to utilize a Practice Guideline for assessing and supporting kinship caregivers. The Practice Guideline assists field staff through the initial assessment process to increase the number of children placed in kinship homes.

DCS continues to provide kinship caregivers with necessary information and resources to ensure that the child(ren) placed with them are properly cared for and kin are supported, reducing the trauma to children entering out-of-home care and avoiding more costly living arrangements. Kinship home studies are conducted by Southwest Human Development (SWHD), Pinnacle Employment Services, Intermountain, and Arizona's Children's Association through contracts with the Department. Staff visit the kinship homes early in the placement process to conduct the home studies and provide information on resources available through DCS and community-based agencies (including licensing, financial, social and educational resources).

The Fostering Sustainable Connections (FSC) program, initiated in 2016, began serving children statewide in October 2019. Family Engagement Specialists identify and locate relatives and kin important to children for emotional support and possible placement utilizing Lexus Nexus, Seneca, social media, case research and engagement activities during their visits with children. FSC uses the TDM process to create plans and transition children/youth who are placed in a congregate care setting into a family like setting. The process allows for the increase in 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 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 (OLR) 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.

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The Department continues to partner with the Department of Economic Security's Family Assistance Administration (FAA) to troubleshoot 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 was passed to lift 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. Kinship Support teams provided 731 kinship caregivers with TANF Child-Only benefits.

The Care Portal connects DCS families to local churches who want to serve their communities by providing basic goods and services in an effort to keep families together, reunify families, and support kinship caregivers. This program serves all DCS families as well as young adults who reach adulthood in 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 currently provides services and goods to families in Pima, Maricopa, and Yuma Counties.

In 2018, the Department expanded the DCS Warmline support to be available to all Kinship families. This assists with easier access to getting questions answered and receiving assistance with setting up benefits such as TANF, DES daycare and any questions with the Kinship Stipend Program.

There are seven KSS positions statewide that provide resources and support services to unlicensed kinship caregivers. The SPA experienced vacancies in two of the KSS positions over a six month period.

Conclusion

Kinship care accounts for 49 percent of the children in out-of-home care in Arizona. This percentage continues to exceed the national rate of 32 percent and is reflective of Arizona's commitment to prioritize kin as the first preference for children who require out-of-home care. As the Department continues to expand its services and supports available to kinship caregivers, it emphasizes the most critical role family and fictive kin have in a child's life. These are life-long sustainable and loving relationships. If you ask a youth in out-of-home care who they may want to spend Thanksgiving with in ten years, most would identify a family member or significant person in their life with whom they want a lifetime relationship.

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INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM / EDUCATION

[A.R.S. § 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 teens that are currently in foster care as well as young adults aged 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 2022:

The number of 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. On June 30, 2022 there were 1,308 youth in the *Independent Living Program*.

The number of youth in the program by age:

Age	Number of Youth
16	161
17	356
18	306
19	284
20	201
TOTAL	1,308

The number of youth in the program by grade:

Grade ¹	Number of Youth
Below 9	1
9	39
10	174
11	302
12	375
Post-Secondary ²	101
Not in School ³	316
TOTAL	1,308

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

County	Number of Youth
Apache	1
Cochise	13
Coconino	29
Gila	14
Graham	6
Greenlee	1
La Paz	7
Maricopa	796
Mohave	36
Navajo	21
Pima	215
Pinal	94
Santa Cruz	3
Yavapai	36
Yuma	35
Out-of-State	1
TOTAL	1308

Youth in the Independent Living Program who have a high school or general education diploma: 417

¹ *Grade level* includes youth in secondary level alternative, credit recovery, 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 secondary education and are not currently enrolled in a post-secondary program. Youth "not in school" are engaged in workforce or other activities (i.e. therapeutic) as outlined in their individual case plans.

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HOUSING ASSISTANCE

[A.R.S. § 8-526\(E\)](#) requires the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) 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 Region, receiving services through this program during the previous fiscal year.
- The total amount of monies spent on the program by Region.
- 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 Department of Child Safety (DCS) 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; and
- All other sources of assistance have been fully explored and used before considering this program.

Number Served

In SFY 2022, the Housing Assistance Program served 352 children in 153 families.

REGION & County	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
Maricopa East (<i>East Maricopa County</i>)	112	53
South (<i>Pima, Yuma, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties</i>)	34	16
Northeast (<i>Pinal, Gila, Apache, Navajo, Graham and Greenlee Counties</i>)	15	6
Northwest (<i>Mohave, Yavapai, La Paz, and Coconino Counties</i>)	3	1
Maricopa West (<i>West Maricopa County</i>)	191	77
STATEWIDE TOTAL (duplicated)*	355	153
STATEWIDE TOTAL (unduplicated)	352	153

* Some children may be duplicated having received services in more than one region.

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Cost of Service

The total amount expended statewide for the Housing Assistance Program in SFY 2022 was \$250,866.

REGION	TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED
Maricopa East <i>(East Maricopa County)</i>	\$92,185
South <i>(Pima, Yuma, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties)</i>	\$24,338
Northeast <i>(Pinal, Gila, Apache, Navajo, Graham and Greenlee Counties)</i>	\$5,238
Northwest <i>(Mohave, Yavapai, La Paz, and Coconino Counties)</i>	\$1,800
Maricopa West <i>(West Maricopa County)</i>	\$127,305
STATEWIDE TOTAL	\$250,866

Results of Service

The Housing Assistance Program improves the ability of DCS to achieve 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 2021, the average length of stay in out-of-home placement prior to reunification was 406 days (13.30 months). An estimated \$3,205,632 would have been expended by DCS for foster care maintenance payments (licensed foster home, personal and clothing allowance) at an average cost of \$684.73 per month/per child if the 352 children who benefited from the Housing Assistance Program during SFY 2022 had entered or remained in foster care for the average length of stay of 13.30 months. Based on the SFY 2022 Housing Assistance Program expenditures of \$250,866, there is potential cost avoidance of \$2,954,766.

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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	352
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 13.30 months. It also displays the total expenditures for SFY22 for the Housing Assistance Program and the potential cost avoidance.

Table 3: Cost Avoidance

Estimated DCS Expenditures for 13.30 Months	\$3,205,632
Housing Assistance Program Expenditures	\$250,866
Program Potential Cost Avoidance	\$2,954,766