



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY**  
**Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families**  
**Involved with the Department of Child Safety**  
**Report to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership**  
**June 2020**

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This report has been prepared pursuant to Executive Order 2008-01: Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services, which requires all Executive Branch agencies that administer substance abuse treatment and prevention services to submit a written report by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP). The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) administers the Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (Families in Recovery Succeeding Together) program, also known as AFF. As required by Executive Order 2008-01, this report describes the actions taken to give priority to families referred to DCS, and to maximize federal funds to the greatest extent possible before expending state funding. In addition, this report provides a description of available services, data on the number of individuals served, and permanency outcome data.

**Program Eligibility and Services**

The Department of Child Safety administers AFF in collaboration with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the AFF provider agencies. The program provides family-centered substance abuse and recovery support services to parents/caregivers who are involved with the child welfare system via a child abuse and neglect report, and whose substance abuse is a barrier to maintaining children in the home or to reunification. These same services are available to clients of the Department of Economic Security (DES) Jobs program whose substance abuse is a barrier to obtaining or maintaining employment. During SFY 2019, 99.2% of referrals were made by DCS while 0.3% were referred by the DES Jobs program.

A comprehensive array of treatment and other related services is available statewide through two contracted AFF providers who serve all five DCS regions. The AFF providers serve Title XIX-eligible clients through coordination with the statewide Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA). Basic and intensive outpatient treatment includes group therapy, family therapy, individual therapy, drug screening, inpatient treatment when assessed as the least restrictive treatment needed for the client's recovery, concrete supportive services (such as transportation and

child care) when needed to promote recovery, and auxiliary services (parenting skills sessions, domestic violence classes, anger management, job search assistance, etc.).

### **Funding Sources**

Services provided to AFF clients were funded jointly by DCS and AHCCCS. In SFY 2019, DCS funding for AFF was \$7,013,220. In addition, AHCCCS federal funds covered the majority of costs for clients who were Title XIX and Title XXI-eligible. DCS and AHCCCS funding together allowed AFF to administer a full array of services across the state with no waiting list to access these services. At the time of the initial substance abuse assessment, 57.1% of clients were Title XIX eligible, 39.1% of services were funded by DCS, and 3.9% were either eligible for private insurance, tribal funds, or Medicare, or their funding source was not known. At the time of closure (for referrals closed in SFY 2019), 28.3% were funded through AHCCCS/Title XIX, 53.01% of services were funded through DCS, and the remaining 18.77% were funded through private insurance, tribal funds or Medicare, or the source was unknown. Reasons for the funding source change can include situations where clients' AHCCCS enrollment lapsed, clients were in recovery maintenance (which AHCCCS does not fund), or clients were no longer eligible because they obtained or increased employment (from part-time to full-time).

### **Total Individuals Served**

Data from the most recent program evaluation indicates that 8,346 new AFF referrals were received in SFY 2019. Outreach was completed for 95.8% of the individuals referred, with 88.8% of outreach activities occurring within one day or less. A substance abuse intake and assessment was completed with 6,364 of the individuals referred. A total of 2,153 unique individuals (both new referrals and continuing clients) received treatment services and 4,930 received support services. Of the 2,153 receiving treatment, 58.2% of clients engaged in outpatient treatment (at least three hours per week), 26.7% received intensive outpatient treatment (at least eight hours per week), and .3% received residential treatment (24/7 treatment). Due to additional error reports being added and the resulting extensive data cleaning efforts for the FY2019 annual report, the total number of clients receiving treatment appears to have dropped. This actually reflects increased accuracy in the data used for the report.

Support services provided for the 4,930 clients include service coordination (case management) and auxiliary and concrete supportive services. Besides case management, clients received parenting skills training, job readiness and employment assistance, non-substance-abuse-treatment mental health services, domestic violence education, crisis intervention, and basic life skills training. The Other category (which includes case management and other services not listed above) was the most-requested auxiliary service at 78.5% of AFF clients and with parenting skills training and education services a close second with 50.5% of clients.

### **Family Well-Being & Permanency Outcomes**

Among the individuals analyzed for child maltreatment statistics through SFY 2019, approximately 92.7% of clients had one or more allegations of child maltreatment at the time of their referrals to the AFF program. Of these referrals, 75.4% had at least one substantiated finding at the time of the referral, and an additional 16.4% had at least one unsubstantiated allegation at the time of referral. At the conclusion of SFY 2019, 71.6% had no new reports to DCS after being

referred to AFF, approximately 13.7% had an unsubstantiated maltreatment allegation after being referred to the program, and 12.6% had a substantiated finding after referral to the AFF program. It should be noted that these numbers sometimes include more than one allegation per parent or caregiver, so these amounts do not total 100%.

Data related to permanency for children indicates 73.8% of the children associated with a closed AFF referral during SFY 2019 had achieved permanency. Of the children who had achieved permanency, 47.4% were reunified with their family, 44.3% were adopted and 8% involved guardianship.

During SFY 2019, 12.7% of individuals successfully completed treatment, and 72.7% unsuccessfully closed out of the program. Additionally, the percentage of clients reporting they were unemployed decreased from 42.2% at intake to 32.4% at closure.

These results continue to further the legislative goals of increasing the availability, timeliness, and accessibility of substance abuse treatment. In turn, these services help to improve child safety, family stability, and permanency for children in foster or other out-of-home placement, and help families achieve self-sufficiency through employment.