



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM / EDUCATION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 2017:

*The number of youth in the Independent Living Program:* On December 31, 2017, there were 1,701 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.

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

Age	Number of Youth
16	244
17	563
18	434
19	262
20	198
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,701</b>

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

Grade	Number of Youth
Below 9	0
9	0
10	242
11	531
12	310
Secondary Programs <sup>1</sup>	126
Post-Secondary <sup>2</sup>	327
Not in School <sup>3</sup>	165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,701</b>

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

County	Number of Youth
Apache	3
Cochise	31
Coconino	11
Gila	6
Graham	3
Greenlee	0
La Paz	5
Maricopa	1,116
Mohave	123
Navajo	1
Pima	227
Pinal	117
Santa Cruz	6
Yavapai	17
Yuma	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,701</b>

*# Youth in the program who graduated from high school in 2017: 276 youth*

*# Youth in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2017: 88 youth*

*# Youth in the program that are enrolled in post-secondary education: 327 youth*

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

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

<sup>3</sup> *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.