



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Clarence H. Carter
Director

MAR 12 2012

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Arizona Revised Statute § 8-521 requires the Department of Economic Security (DES) to prepare a report by March 1 of each year that contains the following information for the youth served through the Independent Living Program during the previous calendar year:

- The number of children in the program.
- The number of children in the program by age and grade.
- The number of children in the program by county of residence.
- The number of children in the program who graduated from high school.
- The number of children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma.
- The number of children in the program enrolled in postsecondary education.

In accordance with this requirement, the Department is pleased to submit the enclosed report. If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-5757.

Sincerely,

Clarence H. Carter
Director

Enclosure

cc: President Steve Pierce, Arizona State Senate
Speaker Andy Tobin, Arizona State House of Representatives
Ken Bennett, Secretary of State
Janet Fisher, Acting Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records



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**Department of Economic Security
Division of Children, Youth and Families
Independent Living Program/Education 2011 Annual Report**

Arizona Revised Statute § 8-521 establishes Arizona's Independent Living Program and the supporting Educational Case Management Unit within the Department of Economic Security's, Division of Children, Youth and Families.

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 who are currently in foster care as well as young adults ages 18-20 years who were in foster care when they were teenagers. Young adults over 17 years of age in the Independent Living Program may either be 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 2011:

The number of youth in the Independent Living Program: On December 31, 2011, there were 1,510 youth in the Independent Living Program.

The number of children in the program by age:

Age	Number of Children
Under 13	0
13	2
14	7
15	60
16	256
17	482
18	376
19	187
20	140
TOTAL	1,510

The number of children in the program by grade:

Grade	Number of Children
Below 7	0
7	2
8	7
9	60
10	256
11	466
12	306
Post-Secondary ¹	249
Not in School ²	164
TOTAL	1,510

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

County	Number of Children
Apache	9
Cochise	19
Coconino	25
Gila	3
Graham	0
Greenlee	2
La Paz	1
Maricopa	878
Mohave	37
Navajo	11
Pima	351
Pinal	92
Santa Cruz	8
Yavapai	56
Yuma	18
TOTAL	1,510

The number of children in the program who graduated from high school in 2011: 204 youth

The number of children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2011: 66 youth

The number of children in the program who are enrolled in post-secondary education: 249 youth

¹ *Post secondary* education includes youth enrolled in colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade/technical schools.

² *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.