



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY
Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

AZ KIDS

Thrive

2019 Year-End Review
#AZKidsThrive

↑ 16% increase in young adults opting in

Arizona successfully increased the number of youth served ages 18-21 by 16%.

↑ 39% increase in children receiving services in-home

The number of children receiving services or case management in-home has increased significantly.

↑ 90% increase in adoption inquiries

Children's Heart Gallery inquiries have almost doubled through launch of a new website and public awareness campaign.



Lina, Sierra and Faith

The Department is SO PROUD of foster youth Lina and Sierra, who took advantage of a DCS program that offers a \$1,500 stipend to any foster youth that can earn their bachelor's degree prior to age 21, an accomplishment not often achieved by ANY youth.

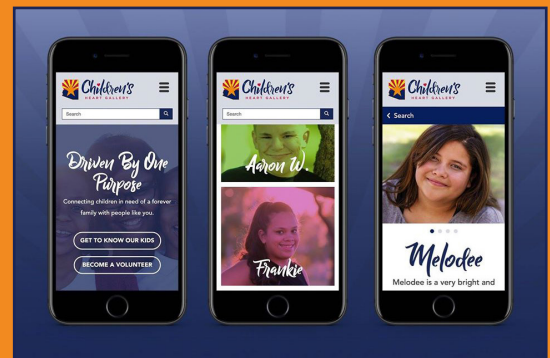
The Department is also proud of Faith who serves on our Youth Empowerment Council. She volunteered to share her story in an effort to increase the number of families willing to foster teens. You can watch Faith's story here: <http://bit.ly/AZDCSFaithStory>.



Child-Focused

DCS launched a new Children's Heart Gallery logo and website in an effort to help Arizona's children who are in need of their forever families. This effort has resulted in increased community awareness and an 85% increase in adoption inquiries. Governor and Mrs. Ducey also visited a Heart Gallery event to spend time with the children and see for themselves the positive effect these events have, not only for the children, but also for the volunteers who serve them. Visit childrensheartgallery.org.

Recruitment outreach this year also included a campaign focused on increasing the number of Native American foster families. This campaign is promising and is producing 10-12 inquiries per month.



Youth-Focused

Foster youth turning 18 can choose to voluntarily remain in DCS care until age 21. The Department seeks to grow this population to give our young adults the best opportunity for successful transition to adulthood. The Department will expand semi-supervised and unsupervised housing options, allowing foster youth to continue their education or step into adulthood while maintaining departmental support.

Arizona celebrates our striving and thriving foster youth, in 2018-2019:



235

AZ foster youth graduated from high school



AZ foster youth received a GED

91

246

AZ foster youth enrolled in college



2

AZ foster youth received a bachelor's degree before age 21



Family-focused

DCS will continue to increase our in-home service array to ensure that safety threats can be managed with the benefit of keeping families together. FFPSA (Family First Prevention Services Act) will soon allow the Department to provide more services to the entire family if a child is at risk of entering foster care.

↓ **25%**
decrease in
the foster care
population

Parent-Focused

The DCS Parent Advisory Board provides valuable insight and feedback. Locally, the board has advised on policy for services and visitation to incarcerated parents, shared parenting materials and more. Nationally, members of the board have represented Arizona parents at several conferences regarding system improvement, and have also presented a workshop on Parent Voice at the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.



Kinship-Focused

Kinship foster care accounts for 45 percent of the children in out-of-home care in Arizona, exceeding the national average of 32 percent. This percentage is reflective of Arizona's commitment to prioritize kin as the first preference for children who require out-of-home care.

The Governor recommended expansion of the monthly kinship stipend (\$75 per child) to include all unlicensed kinship caregivers regardless of income. This expansion was approved by the legislature and was provided to kinship caring for 2,773 children beginning July 1, 2019. The Executive budget recommends doubling this stipend to \$150 in FY2021.

Collaborative Leadership

DCS was recognized for assisting several municipalities in receiving a record number of HUD/FUP housing vouchers for the benefit of DCS-involved families and young adults. This work earned an Innovative Housing Program of the Year award at the AZ National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Conference.

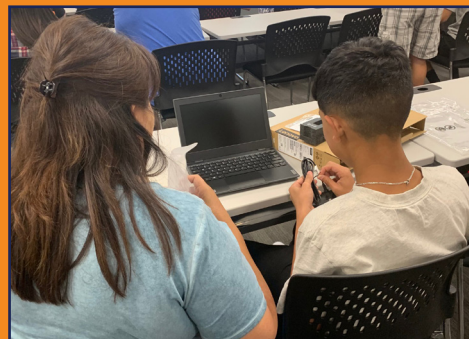


Community-Supported



VERTUCCIO FARMS designed their fall corn maze to showcase the new Children's Heart Gallery logo and raise awareness for children in need of a forever family.

FACT stands for Fostering Achievement through Computer Technology. Through generous donations from the community, DCS has been able to provide laptops to 400 foster youth.



For the third year, **#LoveUp Foundation** and the **Scottsdale Princess** have teamed up to host foster families for their annual Christmas tree lighting. The event includes dinner, gifts, and of course, a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

