

November 13, 2020

Dear Kinship, Foster and Congregate Caregivers,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, and despite the numerous challenges facing our communities, there is so much we have to be thankful for. I am very thankful for you and your commitment to serve Arizona's children. With all the uncertainty and difficulties of 2020, children in your care have been supported, cared for and loved in way that helps them successfully navigate the uncertainty we all face.

In many states and counties around the country child welfare agencies have not supported permanency activities since March. With your support, families and children involved in Arizona's child welfare system have had a very different experience. Since March, almost 3,000 children have reunified with their birth families and an additional 1,700 children have achieved permanency through adoption. Your commitment to supporting this cannot be understated and these children and their families are forever grateful for your support.

The Department continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and with the rise in cases has reissued our [safety protocols](#) to all staff and service providers. Our commitment to public safety and mitigation of spread remains a priority as we strive to fulfill our mission. With those protocols in place, supporting in-person visitation/parenting time and commitment to delivering services in the most effective and efficient are critical to fulfilling the mission through engagement and strengthening families. We will continue to review and make alterations to support children, caregivers, families and staff to ensure we can all continue to fulfill our shared mission.

As the public health crisis continues, calls to the Child Abuse Hotline have increased and regrettably the number of children requiring out-of-home care has increased. As a result, the placement needs for family like settings has increased. The Department is continually communicating with Licensing Agencies of these needs. If you and your family are able to support, please advise your licensing worker so they are working to match children entering care with your family. Thank you in advance for considering opening your home.

If you have specific needs or require supports especially during the holiday season please let us know. You can contact your DCS Specialist, Licensing Worker or contact the DCS Warm line at 1-877-543-7633 option 3. We are here to support you and the children in your care.

Again, thank you for all you do to support our shared mission.

Mike Faust  
Director

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