



**HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

A.R.S. § 8-462(E) requires the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) to make the following information regarding the Housing Assistance Program available to the public upon request and available on the Department's website:

- ❖ The number of children and families, by district*, receiving services through this program during the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ The total amount of monies spent on the program by district.
- ❖ A programmatic and fiscal evaluation of the effectiveness of this program which includes the amount of monies saved by reducing foster care expenditures.

To be eligible for the Housing Assistance Program, the following criteria must be met:

- ❖ At least one child is a participant in an open Department of Child Safety (DCS) case;
- ❖ Housing assistance is needed to expedite a permanent placement for the child;
- ❖ Lack of safe and adequate housing is a significant barrier to family preservation, family reunification or achievement of the permanency plan for at least one child;
- ❖ Family income, including entitlements, is insufficient to cover housing expenses;
- ❖ The family is willing to develop and participate in a time-oriented plan to maintain housing obtained through this program; and
- ❖ All other sources of assistance have been fully explored and used before considering this program.

* DCS now uses the term "region" instead of "district".

Number Served

In SFY 2014, the Housing Assistance Program served 833 children in 349 families statewide.

REGION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	121	51
Pima (Pima County)	271	123
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties)	65	27
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila Counties)	22	9
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	354	139
STATEWIDE TOTAL	833	349

Cost of Service

The total amount expended statewide for the Housing Assistance Program in SFY 2014 was \$494,138.42.

REGION	TOTAL MONIES EXPENDED
Central (East Maricopa and Pinal Counties)	\$74,523.44
Pima (Pima County)	\$181,294.89
Northern (Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties)	\$36,220.51
Southeast (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila Counties)	\$12,050.71
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz and West Maricopa Counties)	\$190,048.87
STATEWIDE TOTAL	\$494,138.42

Results of Service

The Housing Assistance Program greatly improves the ability of DCS to ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children who are the subject of a DCS report and investigation, or participants in an ongoing services DCS case.

In a most cost-effective manner, the Housing Assistance Program provides families who have open DCS cases with needed housing and utility assistance in order to meet their health, safety, and shelter needs, when such assistance is not available through other programs.

The Housing Assistance Program is available for families whose lack of safe and adequate housing is a significant barrier to family preservation or family reunification.

In SFY 2014, the average length of stay in out-of-home placement prior to reunification was 8.6 months. An estimated \$4,844,503 would have been expended by DCS for foster care maintenance payments, if the 833 children who benefited from the Housing Assistance Program during SFY 2014 had entered or remained in foster care for the average length of stay of seven months. Based on the SFY 2014 Housing Assistance Program expenditures of \$494,138, there is potential cost avoidance of \$4,350,365.
