

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES FACT SHEET

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

To address the unmet needs of the children, youth and families within Pima County by:

- Providing technical assistance to child care professionals in order to prevent exclusion of young children from their early care and educational settings, and preserve family stability and self sufficiency.
- Increasing case management, supportive intervention and counseling for the increasing number of low income children and families who are underinsured and ineligible to receive state benefits, thereby supporting family preservation and self sufficiency.
- Increasing supportive intervention/guidance counseling for youth and adult domestic violence offenders to prevent and remedy the neglect, exploitation or abuse of children and adults.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Pima County 2009 and 2010 American Community Survey Data					U.S. (Nationwide) 2010 American Community Survey
	<b>2009 Total</b>	<b>200 Percent</b>	<b>2010 Total</b>	<b>2010 Percent</b>	<b>2010 Percent</b>
Total Family Households	229,308		240,497		
Total Family HH in Poverty	29,351	12.8%	29,341	12.2%	11.3%
Total Family HH w Children	94,331		108,542		
Total Family HH w Children in Poverty	18,772	19.9%	22,360	20.6%	17.9%
1 out of 5 family households with children are in poverty					

## SERVICE PRIORITIES

- 1) **On-site support for child care professionals to protect the child’s interest by gaining skills to successfully include, not expel, children who exhibit challenging development/behaviors. Target group: Staff working with children in programs serving children ages 0-12 years**

### Demographics Specific to this Service

- In Pima County, there are 367 Department of Health Services (DHS) Licensed Child Care Facilities with the capacity to serve 38,045 children; 117 DHS Licensed Group Homes with the capacity to serve 1,166 children; 378 Department of Economic Security (DES) Certified Family Child Care Homes with the capacity to serve 1,488 children
- 2004 Pima County data – over 600 preschool children were expelled from early childhood centers for aggressive or violent behaviors
- Prekindergarten students are expelled at a rate more than 3 times that of their older peers in k-12 grades (2005 National Policy Brief (Gilliam)
- A September 2009/2010 non-scientific random sampling of 62 centers in Pima County (serving approximately 4,800 children) found that approximately 300 children exhibit significant challenging behaviors/development and of those 57 were expelled (approx. 12/1,000).

The 30% increase in the severity of challenging children in care requiring supportive programs is partially attributed to the economic crisis, which has increased stress in families and on young children, funding cuts, and changes to Early Intervention services.

## **IMPACTS OF SERVICES**

Research shows a 90% increase in implementation of new practices when supportive on-site coaching is provided (Joyce & Showers, 2022). This leads to:

- Increased retention of children to remain in their early care and out of school settings
- Increased self-sufficiency and ability to stay in stable early care and out of school settings

## **TRENDS OF GAPS AND EMERGING NEEDS**

- Children with communication challenges, atypical physical and/or cognitive development or social/emotional/behavioral challenges who do not meet the rigid definitions to be eligible for specialist services often **fall through the cracks** and end up even further behind their peers.
- Research has shown that children with unsuccessful early childhood experiences have a higher likelihood of unsuccessful experiences once in school.
- Programs with less skilled/minimally trained staff increase the risk that children with challenging behavior/development will fall by the wayside, or be excluded from the very programs designed to support healthy child growth and development.
- License regulations only require a high school diploma and staff pay is extremely low with minimal benefits. As a result there are many minimally trained staff and high staff turnover.

## **FUNDING**

- DES Child Care Administration funds "Occupational/Vocational Training" for child care providers. This funding was cut substantially in 2008 and has not been restored. It must be noted that current DES funding only covers approximately 106 hours/year of TA for Pima County even at fully funded levels, which covers a maximum of only 9 children per year.
- First Things First - Regionally funded programs do not provide support for the staff caring for 6-12 year olds attending before/after school care programs or for children with challenging physical, language or cognitive development. , there is inconsistency throughout the County in what is funded, with only approximately 50 of more than 900 programs projected to receive the on-site support needed

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Casa de los Niños and Child and Family Resources.

- 2) **Case management, supportive intervention and counseling for low income children and families who are underinsured and ineligible to receive state benefits. Target group 1: Children and Families. Target group 2: Rural Children and Families.**

## **DEMOGRAPHICS SPECIFIC TO THIS SERVICE**

- In Arizona in 2009, 48% (806,272) of children live in low-income families (National: 42%), defined as income below 200% of the federal poverty level; 50,713 of those children in Pima County.
- Of low-income children in Arizona, 18% lived in households where no adult was employed; 46% lived in urban areas, 54% in rural areas (according to the National Center for Children in Poverty).
- It is sometimes difficult for rural areas to demonstrate a large enough need to be competitive when certain funding opportunities arise (i.e. stats showed 9 unaccompanied homeless youth in Marana whereas the City of Tucson could have up to 100 homeless youth per night.) Lack of transportation has always been a barrier for families in need of services that live outside of Tucson proper.

## **IMPACT OF SERVICES**

Currently the Networks such as La Frontera, COPE, CODAC, Providence, and Pantano are ultimately responsible for providing counseling services to adults, children and families that are on Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

- Individuals that are not on AHCCCS (Non Title XIX) are **only eligible when funding is available** for group and individual counseling services. Currently, this funding is not available, except through the Social Services Block Grant. This is true for all populations served from children to Persons with Seriously Mental Illness.
- Case management is essential to ensure that resources are accessible –so that families do not fall back into the same patterns that got them into a difficult situation to begin with.

## **TRENDS OF GAPS AND EMERGING NEEDS**

At the local level, public funding for case management and counseling services has been steadily decreasing over the past several years. For instance, the combined counseling and case management City of Tucson Human Service funding available for 2006 – 2008 contracts was \$215,685, or about half of the 2004 level.

- An anticipated a 12% funding decrease combined with a 23% increase in requests for assistance in 2009 (press release dated December 10, 2008).
- More children being left home alone unsupervised combined with massive funding cuts for Child Protective Services and increased stress on families and systems, resulting in a tragic increases in near-fatalities and deaths of Arizona children.

## **FUNDING**

Sources of funding for counseling, case management services are extremely limited. In fact, according the 2009 Public Policy committee of the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, their first issue to be address is to “Ensure that further cuts in Non-Medicaid (Non-Title XIX) benefits and services do not occur and advocate for benefits for non-eligible individuals.”

## **SERIVCE PROVIDERS**

Agencies that provide counseling, case management services to low income families include all 5 Networks: La Frontera, COPE, CODAC, Providence, and Pantano. Within Pima County, the Networks are provided with the responsibility to provide counseling and possibly case management services to the low income populations. These funds however are primarily for those who are on or qualify for AHCCCS benefits. In the rural areas, besides the Networks, PPEP Behavioral Health Services and Marana Health Center are two non Network providers. Outside of the Regional Behavioral Health system, agencies may receive other grants to provide services to specific populations.

### **3) Supportive intervention/guidance counseling for youth and adult domestic violence offenders due to the increasing environmental and economic stressors and violence in the homes. Target group 1: Youth and Adults. Target group 2: Rural Youth and Adults.**

## **DEMOGRAPHICS SPECIFIC TO THIS SERVICE**

Note: Domestic violence data is difficult to track as much of it goes unreported by victims.

- Between January and August 2011, the Tucson Police Department reported 4,214 disorderly conduct offenses related to domestic violence, as compared to 1,031 in 2010. The large increase has not been explained. There were 785 offenses against family in Tucson in 2010 and 593 through August 2011.
- Pima County Sheriff’s Department reported 612 disorderly conduct offenses in the first 8 months of 2011, as compared to 1,067 in 2010. There were also 494 offenses against family in Pima County in 2010 and 288 through August 2011.

## **IMPACT OF SERVICES**

Service providers who work with the offenders of domestic violence whether male or female state that domestic violence is a multi-dimensional issue with myriad issues leading to the infraction, such as family dysfunction, power and control, and past histories of trauma. As studies have shown, most perpetrators of violence have been victims themselves and are now fighting back in an ineffective manner. With continued violence in the home, the children learn modeling behaviors from the adults in the home leading to bullying, substance abuse, and other forms of violence. It perpetuates the cycle of abuse.

(PCADV 2011 “The Nations First State Domestic Violence Coalition-Founded 1976) statistics on impact of Economy on Domestic Violence offences.

- Recession and unemployment do not cause domestic violence but exacerbate it and increases frequency and severity.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline has documented a 21% increase in calls for September 2008 as compared to September 2007.

## **TRENDS OF GAPS AND EMERGING NEEDS**

Service providers in Pima County have observed an increase in domestic violence due to unemployment, etc.

## **FUNDING**

City of Tucson, CSBG, Pima County Outside Agency

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

There are numerous for profit providers that deliver domestic violence treatment services however, only a few receive AHCCCS funding, and fewer are state licensed to deliver Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Treatment services. The Arizona Department of Health Services’ Office of Behavioral Health Licensure has a provider list that shows all 30 providers of domestic violence offender treatment in Pima County, including Our Family Services, PPEP, COPE, Marana Health Center and many others.

## **SERVICES NOT SELECTED FOR FUNDING**

There are many eligible SSBG services that fall within Children, Youth and Family services. Some of the services were not selected for funding because they already receive funding from other Federal, state and local sources, others did not rise to the same priority level as those selected for recommendation to the committee. The following services are listed in alphabetical order.

- Adoption Services, Foster Care Services for Adults and Children, Protective Services for Adults
- Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Housing Services, Independent and Transitional Living Services, Residential Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Services, Day Care Services—Adults, Legal Services
- Education and Training Services
- Family Planning Services
- Health Related and Home Health Services
- Home Based Services
- Information and Referral
- Pregnancy and Parenting Services for Young Parents
- Recreational Services
- Residential Treatment Services
- Special Services for Youth Involved in or at Risk of Involvement with Criminal Activity