

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FACT SHEET

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To provides services and support to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve or move toward independence. An eligible individual is any Arizona resident who has a chronic disability which is attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or autism that was manifested before the age of 18 may be eligible for services. The disability also must result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:

- self-care
- receptive and expressive language learning
- mobility
- self-direction
- capacity for independent living
- economic self-sufficiency

SERVICE PRIORITIES

- Employment Support for Persons with Development Disabilities
- Home Based Services for Persons with Development Disabilities, Attendant Care / Personal Assistance
- Recreational Activities for Persons with Development Disabilities

DEMOGRAPHICS

• There are approximately 5,299 residents (all ages) of Pima County who have met the eligibility criteria for the Division, however, approximately 1,578 individuals do NOT qualify for the Arizona Long Term Care, or Medicaid programs and services. Persons who are eligible for services funded by state monies only have little to no service options

1) Employment Support for Persons with Development Disabilities

DEMOGRAPHICS SPECIFIC TO THIS SERVICE

• Of the 1,578 people with disabilities who are not funded by Medicaid, approximately 568 persons or 36% are of working age. Data with definitive detail is not available as there is no waiting list or other methodology to suggest the number that could work.

IMPACT OF SERVICES

- Providing funds to support adults with disabilities in Employment Services would provide work with the auxiliary benefits of having valued roles and meaningful days and would help achieve societal intentions to have lives more congruent with the lives of their fellow citizens in Pima County.
- The possibility of lost work causing people to move back to their family's home assumes that the family is able physically, financially, emotionally, etc. to have their adult child return to the family home. , These individuals could be at risk of losing the independence they have earned, and deserve, by potentially having to live in a more supervised, restricted, congregate setting should they no longer have family. This could create multi-faceted problems.
- Future implications for young people with disabilities are that independence represented by a job and what it affords will NOT be available for them. For many this could create problems of self-esteem, potentially depression (or other mental health issues) and behavioral issues.

FUNDING and SERVICES PROVIDERS

Currently funding is largely Medicaid and State Funding. Some providers of this service are Beacon Group, CPES and Handlers.

GAPS IN SERVICE PROVISION

Adults with development disabilities, who are funded by state money only, are in jeopardy of losing their jobs without supports and programs available through Employment Services.

2) Home Based Services for Persons with Development Disabilities, Attendant Care / Personal Assistance

IMPACT OF SERVICES

- Many adults with disabilities who are not Medicaid funded live with family members who perform self-help tasks and activities of daily living for their adult children because of their child's inability to do these things. .
- Providing Home Based Services would strengthen or maintain the family unit's capacity to care for their family member and keep the individual out of institutional care.

FUNDING and SERVICES PROVIDERS

Currently funding is largely Medicaid with nothing from State Funding. Any Qualified Vendor would be acceptable to provide Home Based Services such as United Cerebral Palsy, Community Provider of Enrichment Services, Easter Seals Blake, Project Insight, Southern Arizona Family Services, et al.

GAPS IN SERVICE PROVISION

Families who want to have their adult child live in their home must perform these responsibilities as best they can. This is often very distressing for the family in that there could be deficits in their abilities, physically, emotionally, financially, etc. to meet their adult child's needs. It could further disturb the relative stability of the family unit if the care required a family member to resign from work or remain unemployed in order to assure safety and care of their child.

3) Recreational Activities for Persons with Development Disabilities

IMPACT OF SERVICES

- Providing individuals with disabilities the ability to participate in recreational activities and opportunities for socializing, helps self-confidence and ultimately improves their quality of life.
- Most people with disabilities, from their teenage years to the end of their life, prefer, as do most people, to enjoy leisure time, recreational activities with people of their age group. Regrettably, people with disabilities need support and organization to find and participate in recreational activities;

FUNDING and SERVICES PROVIDERS

A creative Day Treatment Program or Respite provider may fulfill some of the need, but otherwise there are no funds that would allow for this service provision.

GAPS IN SERVICE PROVISION

- There is NO FUNDING for this services; Medicaid does not support recreation services
- More recreational programs need to be developed to support and include Adults with.