



FOSTER PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE

To the Foster Parent

As a foster parent, you provide a valuable service by helping families through temporary difficult situations and meeting the needs of children in times of crisis and change. We offer this resource guide as an aid to your role as a foster parent.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY (DCS)

A New Beginning for Arizona's Children

Arizona Child Abuse Hotline:

1-888-SOS-CHILD
(1-888-767-2445)

DCS Website:

www.dcs.az.gov





MEDICAL



The **Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP)** is the AHCCCS health plan for foster children. AHCCCS is Arizona's Medicaid program. CMDP/AHCCCS covers periodic screenings for problems with medical, vision, hearing and dental and includes immunizations, laboratory tests and health education. The services covered by CMDP are very comprehensive and include any necessary health care, mental health care, developmental care, rehabilitative therapies, diagnostic services or other measures recommended by a treating professional within the scope of their practice.

There are no payments, fees or copayments for foster children or their caregivers for medical, dental, vision, or behavioral health services and equipment. Members and foster caregivers should not be billed for any services that CMDP covers. CMDP's payment to the provider is considered payment in full.

Online Directory of Medical and Dental Professionals Who are Members of CMDP Network

Website: <https://app.azdes.gov/dcyf/cmdpe/provider/provdirectory.aspx>

For all **medical emergencies**, dial **911** immediately. For a behavioral health crisis involving the child in your home, contact the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) crisis line for your county:

- Maricopa County — 1-800-631-1314 • 602-222-9444
- Pima County — 1-800-796-6762 • 520-622-6000
- Gila River/Ak-Chin Indian Community — 1-800-259-3449
- Yuma, La Paz, Pinal, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties — 1-866-495-6735
- Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo and Yavapai Counties — 1-877-756-4090

For **emergency suicide prevention**, if you can't reach anyone on the county line, you can call one of two nationwide 24/7 hotlines:

- Hope Line Suicide Hotline • 1-800-784-2433
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline • 1-800-273-8255

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is Arizona's Medicaid agency that offers health care programs to serve Arizona residents.

Website: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/AlreadyCovered/coveredservices.html>

Raising Special Kids provides support and information for parents of children, from birth to age 26, with a full range of disabilities and special health care needs. Programs are offered at no cost to families, and are available in English and Spanish.

Website: <http://www.raisingpecialkids.org/>

Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents provides health insurance information for former foster youth through an online toolkit.

Website: <http://azafap.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Health-Care-Toolkit.pdf>



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



The Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) through the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) provides an urgent response to all children and adolescents who are removed from their home by the Department of Child Safety (DCS). DBHS requires that all referred children and youth be seen within 72 hours of removal and an assessment be completed. DBHS has directed that children removed by DCS receive a behavioral health urgent response, a comprehensive assessment and remain open for behavioral health services for a minimum of 6 months.

Each RBHA has a DCS Liaison to assist DCS staff and foster families with accessing necessary behavioral health services for children and families involved with child welfare. Additionally, the RBHAs have established a single point of contact to assist with ensuring that children in out of home care receive appropriate and timely behavioral health services to meet their needs. The RBHA DCS email single point of contact can be used by DCS staff, foster parents, and congregate care providers to send questions and/or request any assistance in navigating or obtaining behavioral health services. Below are the RBHA DCS email addresses and contact information for each of the RBHAs.

<p><u>Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care</u> Maricopa County and Pinal zip codes 85120, 85140, 85143, 85220, 85240, 85243 Member Services: 1-800-564-5465 Children’s Liaison: 480-751-8471 or DCS@mercyarizona.org</p>	<p><u>Cenpatico Integrated Care</u> Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma Member Services: 1-866-495-6738 Children’s Liaison: 520-809-6432 or DCS@cenpatico.com</p>
<p><u>Health Choice Integrated Care</u> Apache, Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo & Yavapai Member Services: 1-800-640-2123 Children’s Liaison: 928-214-2370 or DCS@jasishealthcare.com</p>	<p><u>UnitedHealthcare Community Plan CRS</u> Statewide for children with qualifying CRS medical condition Member Services: 1-800-348-4058 Children’s Liaison: 602-255-1692 or CRS_specialneeds@uhc.com</p>

Dedicated Foster Care Hotline

Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care 602-633-0763	Cenpatico Integrated Care 1-844-365-3144	Health Choice Integrated Care 928-293-7038 (Starting 11/01/2016)	UnitedHealthcare Community Plan CRS 1-800-582-8220
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Raising Arizona Kids provides mental health resources and other local resources for parents in print, online, video and audio platforms.

Website: <http://www.raisingarizonakids.com/mental-health-arizona-resources/>

Child Mind Institute provides a resource guide titled “Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event”

Website: <http://childmind.org/wp-content/uploads/Child-Mind-Institute-Parents-Guide-Traumatic-Event.pdf>

Video Resource

A video explores +why trauma-sensitive schools are needed to give children the support they need to be successful: <https://traumasensitiveschools.org/why/>



EDUCATION



Free lunch program: Children and youth in foster care are automatically eligible for free breakfast and lunch at schools where breakfast and lunch is provided. When filling out the form, the income is \$0 because a child in foster care has no income (the stipend you receive from the state of Arizona is a reimbursement, not income). The family income does not count because the guardian of the child is DCS.

Foster Ed mission is create a reality where all foster children graduate high school with the widest array of possibilities for the future. A team of Foster Ed Champions, are embedded in DCS offices and schools, and their goal is to improve a foster child's educational conditions and opportunities. If you are interested in having a Foster Ed Champion for your foster child, talk to your DCS Specialist to let him/her know.

Website: <http://foster-ed.org/>

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) provides consumer education, information and resources to families, providers, and the community about child care. Services are offered at no cost to families.

Website: <http://www.arizonachildcare.org/>

Arizona Head Start Association provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and family services to children and their families.

Website: www.azheadstart.org

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) is Arizona's statewide, interagency system of supports and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. AzEIP partners with community providers to support families. Children between birth and 36 months old may be eligible for AzEIP.

Website: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) is dedicated to those individuals who are interested in learning more about Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support. PBIS is a proactive model for creating positive school environments which support the needs for all students and school staff.

Website: www.pbis.org

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) is a section of Arizona Department of Education responsible for ensuring that public education agencies in Arizona have special education programs, policies, and procedures that comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing regulations, and that eligible children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). ESS offers Request Assistance, an email box that is available for foster parents to submit any of their special education questions for prompt reply.

Website: <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/>

Raising Special Kids (RSK) is a nonprofit parent organization that provides support and information for parents of children with a full range of disabilities and health care needs from birth to age 26. Programs are offered at no cost to families are available in English and Spanish.

Website: <http://www.raisingpecialkids.org/>



College Scholarships and Resources

- College Success Arizona: <https://collegesuccessarizona.org/>
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV): <http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/education-and-training-voucher-etv/>
- Arizona Tuition Waiver (ATW): <http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/aging-out-now-what/arizona-tuition-waiver-atw/>
- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation Scholarship (AFFC): <http://www.affcf.org/post-secondary-scholarships/scholarship-application/>
- Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship (ASU): <https://scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1409>
- Doran Community Scholarship (ASU): <https://scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship/1418>
- Blavin Scholarship (NAU): <http://nau.edu/Student-Affairs/Blavin-Scholars-Program/>
- College Depot: <https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/Pages/default.aspx>
- Friendly House: <http://www.friendlyhouse.org/programs>
- John S. Brewer Memorial Scholarship Fund: <http://azhope.com/programs/brewer-memorial.php>
- Nina Mason Pulliam Scholarship (*Maricopa Community Colleges and ASU*): <https://publicservice.asu.edu/ninascholars>
- Passageway Scholarship Foundation – Rite of Passage Program: <http://www.passagewayfoundation.org/application-process.html/>
- Children’s Action Alliance Scholarships & Financial Aid Resources: <http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Scholarship-Guide.pdf>
- Scholarships A-Z: <http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/>
- A Person Centered Plan – Foster Care Youth with Developmental Disabilities: <http://pcp.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/node?destination=node>
- Raising Special Kids: <http://www.raisingpecialkids.org/>
- Protections and Advocacy Agency: Arizona Center for Disability Law: <http://www.acdl.com/>
- Department of Education: <http://www.azed.gov/>
- Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education: <https://highered.az.gov/>



COURT SYSTEM



The Parent Assistance Program Hotline assists callers in understanding Arizona's Department of Child Safety and the juvenile court system. Provides information, options, and resources that deal with family issues and/or worries.

- Toll Free Statewide: 1-800-732-8193
- Metro Phoenix: (602) 542-9580
- TDD: (602) 542-9545

A Guide to the Dependency Court for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Website link: <http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/PDF/GuidetoDependency.pdf>

Casa of Arizona provides advocacy for abused and neglected children in Arizona. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Website: <http://www.azcourts.gov/casa/Community-Resources>

AZ Law Help provides legal information and resources.

Website: www.azlawhelp.org

FOSTER CARE ORGANIZATIONS



Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents serves the foster, adoptive and kinship families who care for Arizona's most vulnerable children.

Website: <http://azafap.org/>

National Foster Parent Association is a volunteer organization established as a result of the concerns of several independent groups that felt the country needed a national organization to meet the needs of foster families in the United States.

Website: <http://www.nfpaonline.org/>

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation provides funds to meet the needs of children in foster care that are not otherwise funded by the State, such as sports team fees, music, dance, karate and gymnastic lessons, class trips, prom clothes and some graduation expenses.

Website: <http://www.affcf.org/>

Arizonans for Children facilitate opportunities and provide effective solutions to alleviate hardships and improve the fragile lives of abused, abandoned, and neglected children in foster care.

Website: <http://www.arizonansforchildren.org/>

AZ Helping Hands is a non-profit organization providing basic essential needs to boys and girls in foster care in Arizona.

Website: <http://www.azhelpinghands.org/>

Fostering Advocates Arizona work to connect young adults leaving foster care with information, resources and support they need to successfully transition to adulthood.

Website: <http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org/>



SUPPORT RESOURCES



Arizona Family Resources provides online resource for families who have opened their homes to children in foster care. The site provides families caring for children in DCS custody – licensed and unlicensed – information on navigating Arizona’s foster care system, links to resources and tips on how to best care for the children in your home. Website: <http://www.azfamilyresources.org/>

DCS Warm Line is a resource for licensed foster parents who are experiencing situations and cannot reach the Department of Child Safety (DCS) case manager for the child in their care in a timely manner. By calling 1-877-KIDSNEEDU (1-877-543-7633), and selecting Option 3, licensed foster parents will be connected to a Warm Line representative. The Warm Line is staffed during business hours but messages may be left at any time of the day or night.

The intent of the Warm Line is to provide licensed foster parents with information, assistance with authorizations for services, timely communication, and support. It is *not* intended to discourage or replace direct and regular communication between the DCS case manager and the licensed foster parent.

Child Crisis Arizona provides programs designed to support children in out-of-home care and to strengthen families who may be at risk.

Website: <http://childcrisisaz.org/>

Provider Indemnity Program (PIP) is a state-funded insurance program that provides liability coverage for foster parents while caring for a child in foster care. PIP covers acts of children in foster care that result in damage to the property of foster parents or third parties. There is no charge to foster parents for this coverage. Website:

https://staterisk.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Provider%20Indemnity%20Program%2011_19_08.pdf

Arizona 2-1-1 Online provides Arizonans access to health, human service and emergency response resources. Website: <https://211arizona.org/>

Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens’ Aide is an independent agency of the Arizona Legislature that was established to make government more responsive to Arizona citizens. It is the office that Arizona citizens can turn to when they feel they have been treated unfairly by a state administrator, agency, department, board, or commission. The services of the Ombudsman are free and confidential.

If you wish for the Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens’ Aide to review your concerns, please contact them at www.azoca.gov or Phone: (602) 277-7292 or Toll Free: (800) 872-2879

Instructions for resolving a complaint or disagreement with DCS are available at the following website address: <https://dcs.az.gov/resources/resolve-complaint-or-disagreement>

Child Care is available for foster parents who work outside the home are eligible for DCS-sponsored childcare for their children in foster care. Contact the child’s DCS Specialist for more information.



SUPPORT RESOURCES



KARE Family Center provide services to kinship caregivers. If you are a family member raising grandchildren, nieces or nephews, cousins or other relatives, the KARE Center can assess your needs and provide information and referrals to resources to help you. Services are provided in both English and Spanish. Locations in Phoenix, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Casa Grande and Yuma.

Website: <https://www.arizonaschildren.org/index.php/our-services/kinship-services>

Lodestar Family Connections Center (LFCC) is an agency-independent supportive and educational resource center, providing a variety of programs for foster, adoptive, guardianship and kinship families. LFCC is family-centered to help meet the diverse needs of families caring for Arizona's children. Located in Phoenix.

Website: www.familyconnectionscenter.org

AZ Foster Youth 411 is a website designed for youth and young adults who need resources and information to facilitate immediate survival and long-term success.

Website: <http://www.fosteryouth411.org/index.php> Statewide: 1-866-999-6384

Arizonans for Children is a non-profit organization that facilitates opportunities and provides effective solutions to alleviate hardships and improve the lives of children in foster care. They have a number of programs available including, tutoring, mentoring, life books, financial literacy for teens and a legal education program for teens aging out of the foster care system. Arizonans for Children also offers Children's Visitation Centers for supervised visits as well as dance, sewing, cooking and craft classes.

Website: www.arizonansforchildren.org/

Additional foster family resources are available on the DCS website at: <http://dcs.az.gov/foster-adoption/family-resources>