

Department of Economic Security
Division of Developmental Disabilities

FAMILY SUPPORT ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

CREDO

To support the choices of individuals with disabilities and their families by promoting and providing within communities flexible, quality, consumer-driven services and supports.

Individuals with developmental disabilities are valued members of their communities and are involved and participating based on their own choices.

VALUES

We Value:

1. Healthy relationships with people;
2. Individual and family priorities and choices;
3. Equal access to quality services and supports for all individuals and families;
4. Partnerships and ongoing communication with individuals, family members, advocates, providers and community members;
5. Developmental approaches – changing conditions that affect people rather than changing people who are affected by conditions;
6. Individual freedom from abuse, neglect and exploitation with a balance between the right to make choices and experience life and individual safety;
7. A diverse workforce that is motivated, skilled and knowledgeable of and uses the most effective practices known;
8. An environment rich in diversity in which each person is respected and has the opportunity to reach their optimal potential;
9. An individual's right to choose to participate in and contribute to all aspects of home and community life; and
10. A system of services and supports which are:
 - Responsive – timely and flexible responses to internal and external customers;
 - Strength-based – recognizing people's strengths, promoting self-reliance, enhancing confidence and building on community assets;
 - Effective – ongoing identification of effective methods and practices and incorporation of those practices into operations; and
 - Accountable – to our customers and to the taxpayers.

**THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS:
EXCEEDING THE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR CUSTOMERS**

I. Introduction

In 1993, Family Support Legislation was passed that defined a family support program for people with developmental disabilities and their families, subject to funding appropriations. This legislation was a result of collaboration with families, advocacy organizations, providers of services and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (Division) in recognition of the significance of family support as a national initiative. While there is no appropriated funding for a family support program in Arizona, the Division integrates the philosophy of the legislation into its activities as indicated in its Credo and Values. This Annual Report highlights initiatives and systems successfully implemented, and describes the ways in which individuals and families are supported through the Division and its many collaborators.

Family support is defined as services, supports and other assistance provided to families with members who have a developmental disability and that are designed to:

- Strengthen the family's role as a primary caregiver;
- Prevent inappropriate out-of-home placement;
- Maintain family unity;
- Reunite families with members who have been placed out of home; and
- Include respite care, assistive technology, appropriate personal assistance services, parent training and counseling, home modifications and assistance with extraordinary expenses associated with the needs of a person with a developmental disability.

II. Overview of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

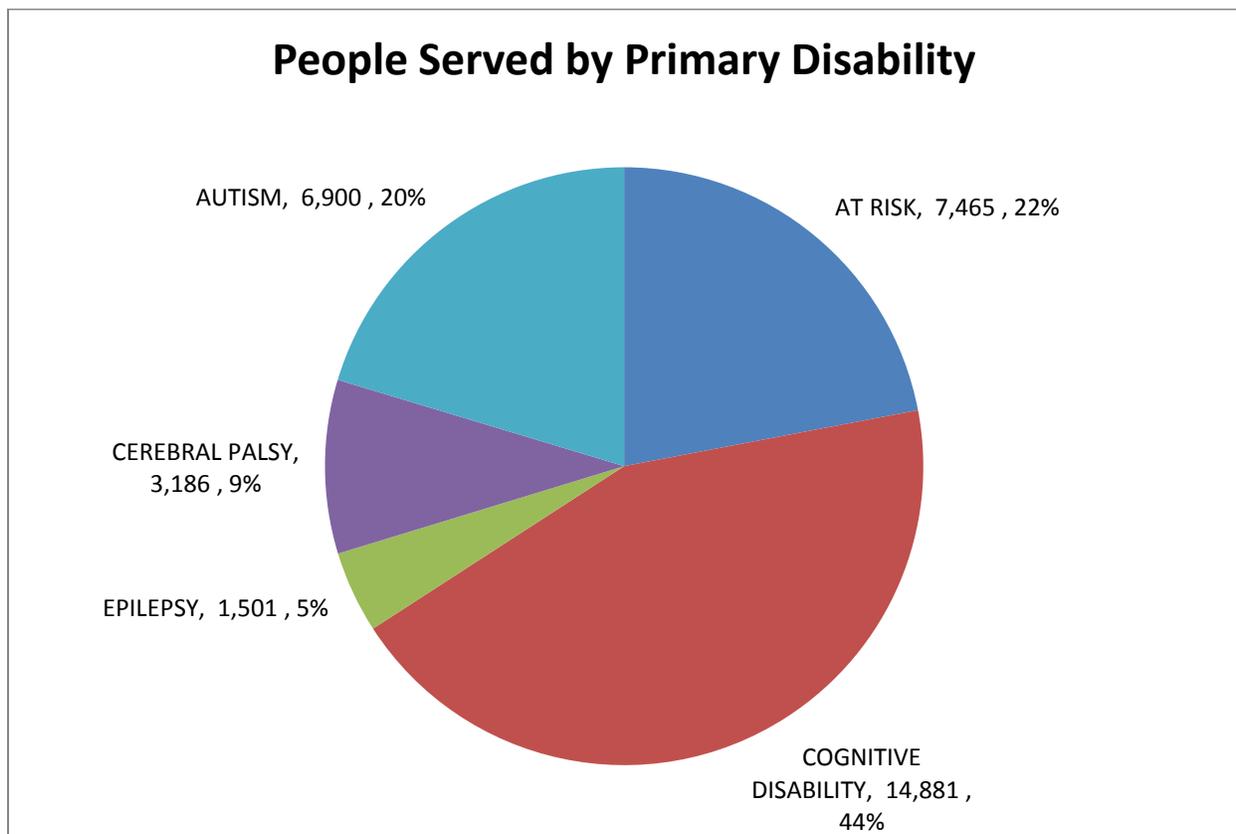
The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) within the Arizona Department of Economic Security provides services and programs to 33,933 people with developmental disabilities as of June 30, 2014. The Division believes that people can best be supported in integrated community settings and the majority of the Division's programs and services are tailored to meet the needs of individuals and their families at home and in community-based settings.

The Division coordinates services and resources through central administrative offices, district offices and local offices located in communities throughout Arizona. There are five (5) districts statewide. They include: District Central, District East, District North, District South and District West. These district and local offices promote the use of existing community resources and program flexibility to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. While a few services are delivered directly by the state, most services and supports are delivered through a network of individual and agency providers throughout Arizona.

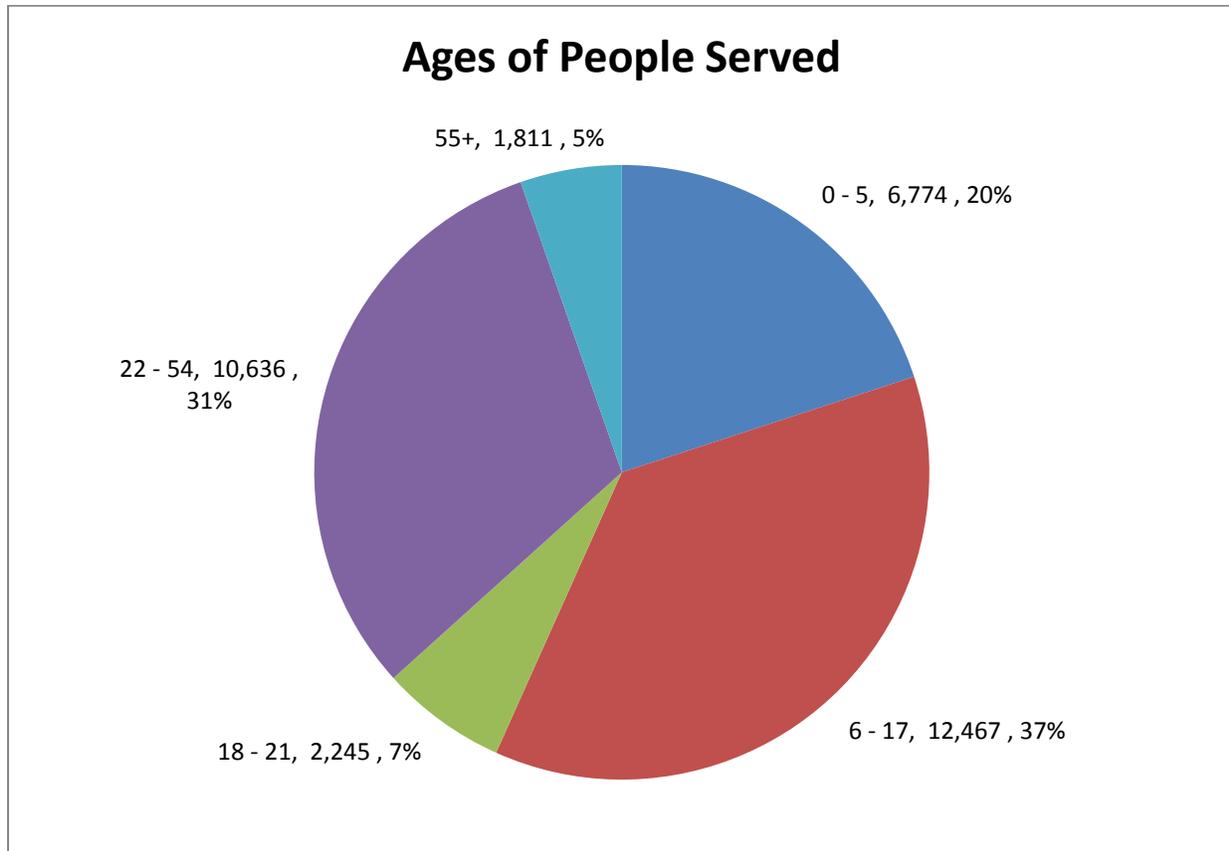
Division Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for Division services a person must have a developmental disability that is manifested before the age of 18 and is attributable to a cognitive/intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or autism. The disability must also result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activities:

- Self-care: needing help with eating, hygiene, etc.;
- Receptive and expressive language: needing help with communicating with others;
- Learning: needing help with acquiring and processing new information;
- Mobility: needing help with moving from place to place;
- Self-direction: needing help with managing personal finances or making decisions;
- Capacity for independent living: needing supervision or assistance on a daily basis; and/or
- Economic self-sufficiency: not being financially independent.

Infants and toddlers under the age of three years may be eligible for services if they exhibit a significant delay in one or more areas of development or, for children under the age of six, are determined to be at risk of having a developmental disability without services. The following chart shows the breakdown of eligible individuals by primary disability as of June 30, 2014:



The Division supports people of all ages. The following chart shows the breakdown of eligible individuals by age as of June 30, 2014:



The Division provides services through two primary funding sources: state general fund and Medicaid.

The Division provides services to three eligibility categories or populations: DDD state funded (DD only) members, Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) members, and Targeted Support Coordination (TSC) members.

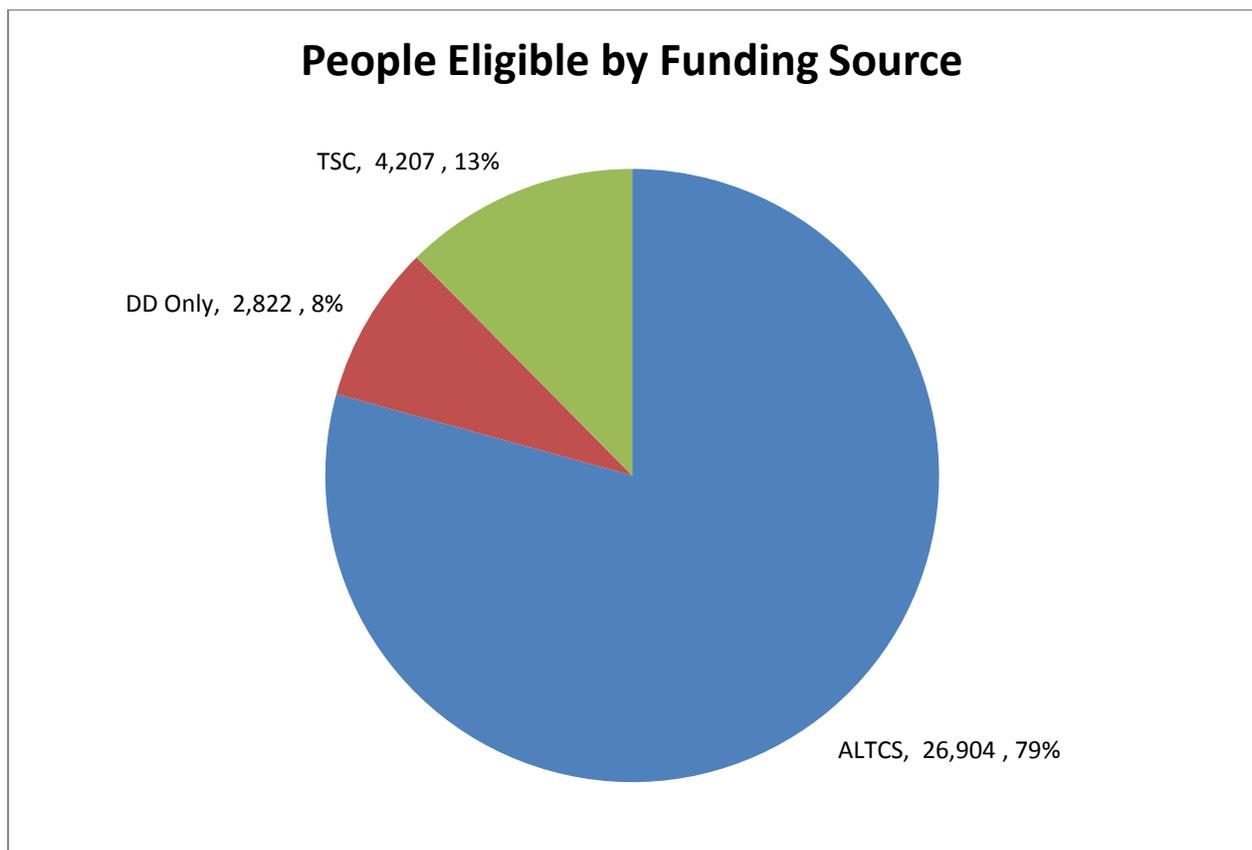
Individuals who meet the Division's eligibility criteria described above receive state funded services (DD only) not to exceed the Division's legislative budget appropriation. Children under the age of three receive state funded services in accordance with IDEA Part C requirements. The types of state funded services provided are listed in Section III of this report.

Individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for services through the Division may also be eligible for services through ALTCS. ALTCS provides long term, behavioral health, and acute care services to individuals with developmental disabilities who are at risk of institutionalization. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) staff determines eligibility for Long Term Care Services through a review of the person's functional needs and

financial eligibility. AHCCCS is the Arizona Single State Medicaid Agency and oversees the Medicaid program. In Arizona, the Medicaid program is a research and demonstration waiver approved through the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and is intended to demonstrate that home and community-based services and a managed care approach are more cost effective than institutionalization. Long term, behavioral health, and acute care services are bundled to improve coordination and enhance service delivery under a single system of support managed by the Division.

Targeted Support Coordination (TSC) is an option for people who qualify for services through the Division and are also eligible for Medicaid acute care through AHCCCS, but are not eligible for ALTCS. AHCCCS determines if an individual is eligible for the TSC program. This option allows the individual/responsible person to determine the frequency and type of contact he/she wants from the Support Coordinator. TSC provides support to the individual by assisting in identifying community resources and helping to coordinate acute care services provided by Medicaid. These individuals may also receive state funded services not to exceed the Division's legislative budget appropriation.

The following chart shows the breakdown of eligible individuals by funding source as of June 30, 2014:



The Division provides most of its services through a statewide network of profit and non-profit agencies (Qualified Vendors) and independent providers. Services are provided based on the person's identified needs, state and/or federal guidelines and, when applicable, the availability of funds. See Section VI for the number of providers.

III. Services and Supports

People receive assistance from a support coordinator (case manager) in determining eligibility, assessing needs, and obtaining services and supports. Support coordinators:

- Gather information to help determine eligibility;
- Develop, with ideas and suggestions from the person and his/her family, an Individual Service/Support Plan that identifies the supports and services needed;
- Assist the person and family in obtaining the needed services and supports;
- Monitor the provision and effectiveness of services; and
- Provide information about services available from other state and community agencies as well as from private organizations.

The Arizona Long Term Care System provides funding for many services based on assessed need. Based on the availability of state funding, the Developmental Disabilities (DD) state funded program (DD only) offers essentially the same services as does the Arizona Long Term Care Services program except for acute and behavioral health services. An asterisk (*) indicates services that are available for Arizona Long Term Care members only.

- Augmentative Communication Devices (devices that help a person communicate, such as a notebook, communication board or computer system. Each device is individualized to a person's specific needs and strengths).*
- Attendant Care (help with personal care and housekeeping).
- Behavioral Health (care and treatment for people with behavioral health needs such as crisis services, evaluation and diagnosis, counseling, behavioral health rehabilitation, transportation, respite, medication, psychiatric medication adjustment and monitoring or in-patient hospital services).*
- Day Treatment and Training (training, supervision, therapeutic activities, and support to promote skill development in independent living, self-care, communication, and social relationships. Services can be provided in both congregate and individual community settings).
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Services (EPSDT).*
- Employment Services (transition to employment, center based employment, group supported employment and individual supported employment).
- Environmental modifications (building modifications to allow an individual to function as independently as possible in their own home). *
- Habilitation (interventions such as habilitative therapies, special developmental skills, behavioral intervention and sensory-motor development designed to increase the person's skills and functioning).
- Health Plan Services (acute care).*

- Homemaker (help with housekeeping).
- Home Health Aide (health maintenance, continued treatment or monitoring of a health condition and supportive care with activities of daily living).*
- Home Health Nurse (skilled nursing services).*
- Hospice (care for individuals who are terminally ill).*
- Residential Services (see Section IV).
- Therapies (Occupational, Physical and Speech).*
- Transportation (to ALTCs covered services).*
- Respite Care (short term care and supervision to provide relief to the caregiver).*

Information about children's services can be found in Section VII.

IV. Residential Options

The Division provides services in a variety of living environments, the vast majority of which are community-based. Most services are provided in the family or person's home. Opportunities are provided for people to choose a place to live, with necessary supports, within their communities, such as receiving supports to live within the family home; living in one's own home or apartment; living in an adult developmental or child developmental home; or residing in a small group home. When residential services are needed, the following options are available:

Individually Designed Living Arrangement – This service provides for an alternative, non-licensed living situation for individuals to choose where and with whom he/she will live and assume all responsibility for his/her residence. Generally, one or more individuals reside together in a private residence that is leased or owned by the individual(s) and/or the individual(s) representative(s). The focus of this service is to provide teaching supports (habilitation) to individuals based on the collective need for support to eligible individuals who have chosen to reside together and share their resources.

Adult Developmental Home – A licensed, private home contracted to provide room and board, supervision, and teaching (habilitation) for a group of siblings or up to three adults with developmental disabilities.

Child Developmental Home – A licensed, private home contracted to provide supervision, teaching (habilitation) and room and board for a group of siblings or up to three children with developmental disabilities. This includes children who have been determined (adjudicated) dependent by the court as well as children who can benefit from temporarily living away from home.

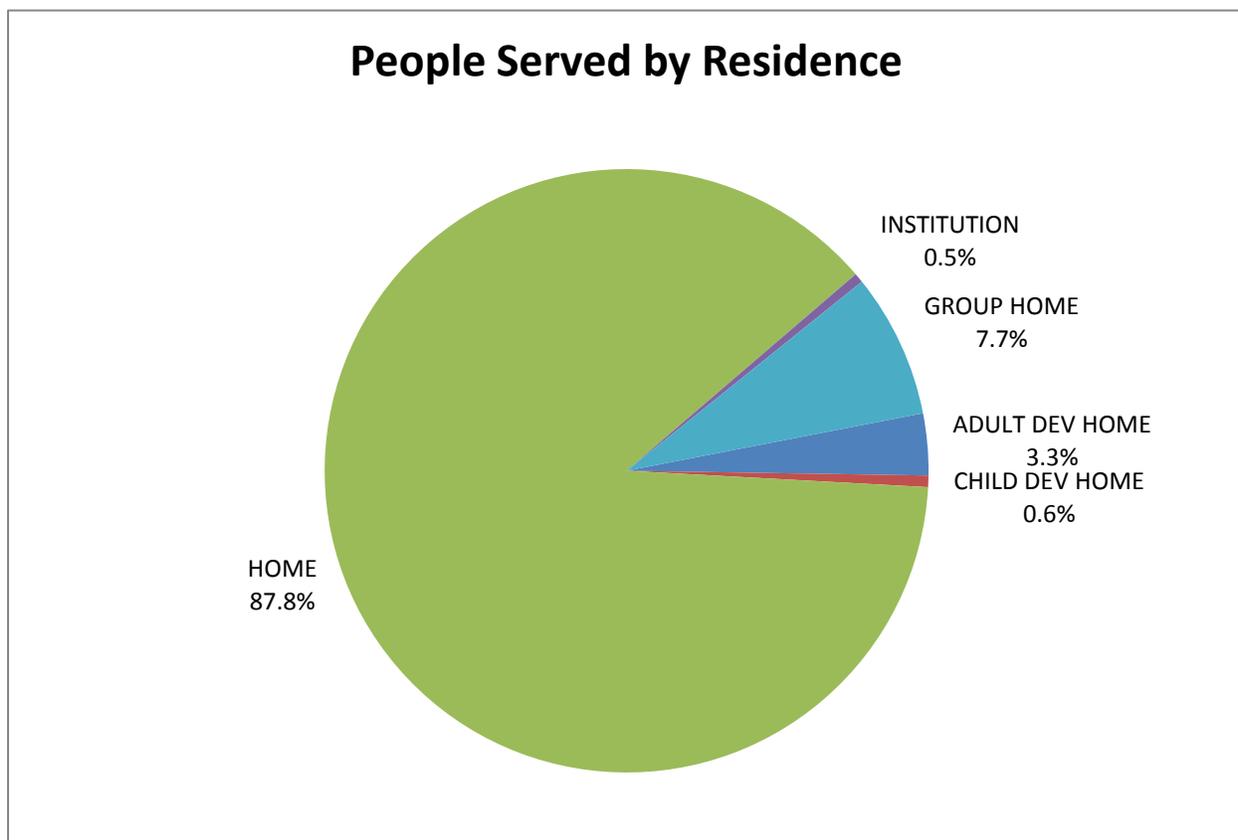
Group Home – A residential setting in the community for up to six people with developmental disabilities that provides supervision, habilitation, and room and board. The group home provides a safe and homelike atmosphere, which meets the needs of individuals who cannot physically or functionally live independently in the community.

Rarely does a person need a more intensive residential setting. For those individuals, the following facilities may be accessed:

Nursing Facility – A Medicaid certified facility which provides residential care, supervision, and skilled nursing services to individuals who need them on a continuous basis but who do not require hospital care or direct daily care from a physician.

Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities – A facility whose primary purpose is to provide health, habilitative and rehabilitative services to people who require them on a continuous basis.

The following chart shows the breakdown of eligible individuals by residence as of June 30, 2014:



V. Employment Options

The Division offers a variety of employment services. The Division works in coordination with the Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation Program to obtain appropriate services and supports, and where necessary, provides supports beyond those available through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Based on a person's needs and interests, the following options are available:

Individual Supported Employment – This service provides job development, assistance in matching the individual with an integrated competitive job and intensive time-limited supports to an employed individual once placed. This time-limited service provides regular contacts at an individual job site with the employed person and/or with the employer. This service is intended to help the person develop the specific on-the-job skills necessary for successful employment and may also include job search when such services are not available through the Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Employment Support Aide – This service provides people with the one-to-one supports needed for the person to remain in his/her employment. These supports could include one or more of the following three options: personal care services, behavioral supports and/or follow-along supports needed to maintain stable employment. The actual supports provided will depend upon the person's need; however, it is the Division's expectation that this service will primarily be used to provide on-the-job follow-along supports for people in competitive employment.

Group Supported Employment – This group service provides people with an on-site supervised work environment in an integrated community employment setting. People are provided the opportunity to work in an environment that allows for maximum interaction with other members of the workforce. People are paid in accordance with state and federal laws by a Qualified Vendor for work performed.

Center-Based Employment – This service is provided in a Qualified Vendor owned or operated setting where participants are to be engaged in paid work and work-related activities. People are supported in developing the skills, abilities and behaviors that will enable them to realize their vocational goals, including transition to a more integrated setting. The Qualified Vendor pays people in accordance with state and federal laws for the work the person performs.

Transition to Employment – This service is a curriculum-based service that provides a Division member with individualized instruction, training and supports to promote skill development for integrated and competitive employment. In addition to employment-related skill development, the service may also assist a member in obtaining unpaid work exploration and job shadowing experiences.

VI. Provider Network

The Division provides most of its services through a statewide network of for-profit and non-profit agencies (Qualified Vendors) and individual providers.

The Division contracts with agencies and professional providers through the Qualified Vendor Application process. This is an electronic process that is open and continuous. This means the Division accepts applications at any time.

In order to support choice, individuals/families have a variety of providers from which to choose. Individuals/families can recruit someone through the local school, neighborhood, spiritual community, family, etc. These potential providers can either work for an agency or be an individual provider.

Individual providers receive training and must be certified prior to service provision. These individual providers are employees of the person or family and are paid through a fiscal intermediary. The fiscal intermediary for the Division is Public Partners Limited.

<u>Home and Community-Based Providers</u>	<u># of Contracts</u>
Agencies (Qualified Vendors)	615
Individual Providers	1,536

VII. Services for Children

Children from birth to three (3) years of age who have a developmental delay and who are eligible for services through Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), may also be eligible for services through the Division and/or the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASBD), and the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). The Division works with AzEIP, which is the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to provide services designed to support growth and development for infants and toddlers and their families. An Individualized Family Service Plan is developed to enhance the child's development and the capacity of the family. Division funded services may include special instruction, therapies, service coordination, health services, or assistive technology devices. As of June 30, 2014, 2,651 DDD children are currently eligible for services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program.

VIII. Acute Care Health Plan Services

The Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) is unique in the nation in that it has always followed a managed care model. A managed care approach has proved cost effective over many years in Arizona. It is also the first program of its kind to bundle acute and long term care services under a single program contractor.

The Division currently holds contracts with three health plans to provide acute medical care services to Arizona Long Term Care System members served by the Division residing in every Arizona county. The health plans allow each person who is enrolled a choice of a primary care provider. The Division's contracted health plans are:

- United Health Care/Independent Physician Association (UHC/IPA)
- Care First
- Mercy Care

The Division also coordinates the American Indian Health Program for children and adults who are tribal members.

IX. Other Division Activities that Support Arizona's Families

In addition to the supports and services noted above, the Division strives to provide other supports to individuals and families. Some of these include:

- The Division's *This Is MY Life* contract provides curriculum development and training to assist individuals in learning self-determination and self-advocacy principles. Self-determination promotes learning all types of decision-making skills to apply in everyday life. Project objectives included focusing on abilities, developing a self-determination community, member-controlled provider contracts, member budget control, promoting programs that support inclusion, and improving operating efficiencies within DDD.
- The Division's website provides information about the Qualified Vendor program (how the Division contracts for services), the Fiscal Intermediary program (the network of individual providers) and how to work with providers. It includes links to Division laws, rules, policies, and forms; and links to many of the Division's publications such as "Navigating the System" (a handbook for people with developmental disabilities and families), the ALTCS "Member Handbook", DDD "Working with You" and others. The website also has a referral feature for people to make a referral for an eligibility determination.
- On April 1, 2014, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care began serving Division members as the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) for Maricopa County. The new RBHA is replacing Magellan Health Services who had served in that capacity for several years. Mercy Maricopa is piloting a new service model, integrating physical and behavioral health care under one entity; however, the DD-ALTCS members will retain their DDD contracted health plan and receive behavioral health care from a Mercy Maricopa contractor.
- "Agency with Choice" is a new member-directed option available to ALTCS members who reside in their own home and receive attendant care, housekeeping, and/or habilitation (hourly). "Agency with Choice" offers members or the member's Individual Representative the ability to play a more active role in directing their own care. Under the new model, the member will enter into a partnership with the provider agency where the provider will serve as the legal employer of record and the member will act as the day-to-day managing employer of the direct care worker. Implementation is currently underway.
- The Division supports councils and family groups. Some of these include the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (a Governor appointed council that is advisory to the Assistant Director); FACT groups (Families Actively Communicating Together – a parent-driven group that provides support and learning opportunities); and specialized groups for Autism, Down Syndrome and groups for families who speak Spanish. These groups are located throughout the state.
- The Division has a Policy Review Team (PRT) that meets monthly. The PRT is responsible for the annual policy review, policy approvals and policy clarifications. New policies or major policy revisions are shared with the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

- The Division provides updates to policy via an *Opt In* list. Families, people with disabilities and community stakeholders submit their contact information to the DDD Policy Unit so that they can receive email updates when there are changes to policy. There are currently over 100 individuals on the *Opt In* list.
- All new support coordinators complete over one hundred (100) hours of initial training upon hire that teaches them the philosophy of the Division and provides the foundation for further on-the-job training.
- In cooperation with the Arizona Department of Administration, leadership staff within the Division were provided with the opportunity to complete four different leadership courses: Real Colors, Crucial Conversations, RAPID Innovations and Project Management.
- The Division's Office of Family and Community Resources provides support to Human Rights Committees organized within each District across the state. These committees are comprised of local volunteers who provide independent oversight in matters related to the rights of people with developmental disabilities such as incidents of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Committees usually meet one time a month to:
 - Review any incidents that may have involved neglect, abuse or denial of rights of members receiving services.
 - Review behavior programs which involve the use of behavior modifying medications or aversive techniques.
 - Review any proposed research involving members receiving services.
 - Make recommendations to DDD about changes needed to protect the rights of members receiving services.
- The Division provides support to Program Review Committees across the state. These volunteer committees review every proposed behavior plan to make sure the plan is properly written, includes positive strategies and does not violate people's rights.
- The Division's Quality Management System includes the Incident Management System which is the automated system for incident reporting. The purpose of incident management is to assist in promoting the health, safety and welfare of people with developmental disabilities through active reporting, investigating, tracking and trending of incidents and the implementation of both individual-specific and systemic corrective actions and prevention strategies.
- The Division's Quality Management Staff also conducts residential monitoring of roughly 900 group homes once or twice a year for compliance with programmatic standards.
- The Division's Resolution System is an automated system used to track member, provider, and community concerns and complaints, and to describe the resolution of the issue. This allows for the ability to identify patterns of concern to ensure systemic identification and resolution. During this time period, the Division responded to 821 complaints.

- Activities of the Office of Compliance and Review, which include Notice of Action appeals and hearings, are also reviewed for trends and areas for improvement.
- Quality Management staff gathers information to support the Division’s credentialing process of Qualified Vendors. Staff also coordinates the gathering of data, analysis and responses to Quality of Care concerns. The Division holds monthly meetings to analyze a variety of data to use in its performance improvement plan. This plan includes a description of all planned activities/tasks for both clinical care and other covered services; targeted implementation and completion dates for measurable objectives and activities; methodologies to accomplish goals and objectives; and identifies staff responsible and accountable for meeting established goals and objectives.
- The statewide Quality Management Committee prioritizes, monitors and coordinates all organization wide quality/performance improvement activities in accordance with the quality management plan. Its monitoring activities include utilization review data analysis, member and provider satisfaction survey data review, quality of care concerns, performance improvement plans, corrective action plans, etc.
- The Division, in partnership with the Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), implemented Team-Based Early Intervention to improve service delivery for infants and toddlers. In Team-based Early Intervention, every family has a team that works together to enhance children’s learning and development within everyday activities. New changes that have occurred are a centralized referral process through Raising Special Kids along with a new data system (I-TEAMS). Early Intervention teams were selected to attend a 2-day Master Teams Institute in July and August 2013. This institute provided teams the opportunity to build relationships and focus on evidence- based practices. In addition, teams gained a deeper understanding of natural learning environments, coaching and teaming practices. Statewide training/workshops were provided throughout the year through various modalities on topics such as referrals, eligibility, assessment and IFSP development.

X. A Snapshot of 2014 Accomplishments

In partnership with members, families, and community stakeholders, the Division continues to support innovations and improvements. Some achievements are as follows:

- In the annual report “Case for Inclusion 2014”, compiled by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), Arizona ranked first as the nation’s “Best Performing” state when it comes to key outcomes for citizens with developmental disabilities. Arizona has been ranked first six times since the annual survey started in 2006. The report tracks how well state Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

The UCP report also recognizes Arizona as ranking number one for being a family-focused state, where support services are provided to families who are caring for children with disabilities in the home, which keeps families together and people with a disability living in their communities.

- Creating a “Picture of Life”, a key collaboration with the Division, the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, was launched in 2012 as a statewide project to improve outcomes for foster youth with developmental disabilities (DD). The goal of the project is to prepare youth with DD who are about to exit foster care to exercise choice, promote the use of informal and community supports and to make knowledgeable decisions on community living and work. In doing so, the project intends to improve transition outcomes for these youth, which include the following desired outcomes: a safe and stable home, self-determination and self-advocacy, framing a vision for their future, a support system to help with decision making, an ongoing circle of natural/informal support, and employment exploration and opportunities. Ultimately, this model project will help to improve services for individuals with DD exiting foster care in Arizona by offering a mechanism for youth to exercise meaningful choice about their living arrangements, work life, social networks and services.
- The Division is a partner in Arizona’s Aging and Disability Resource Center whose goal is to create a coordinated system of information, assistance and access for all people seeking long term care services. This system, known as AzLinks, includes a web site (www.azlinks.gov) that provides links to federal, state, and other agencies, integrating resources on a variety of relevant topics. AzLinks also has a reference manual for people who do not have access to the internet.
- The Division continues to participate in the National Core Indicators Project, a project that has outlined approximately one-hundred (100) individual, family, systemic, cost, and health and safety outcomes. Surveys measure areas such as the satisfaction with supports and services provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Division continues to show areas of strength and areas where improvement is needed. Following each survey completion, the Division identifies strategies to improve priority areas.
- The Division participates in the Department’s Faith Based Initiative. This initiative seeks to form cohesive partnerships with other government entities and faith based organizations to improve access to community and government services and supports.
- The Division offered 1,039 training class sessions to its employees. There were over 7,500 combined attendees who participated in these trainings.
- The Division is in its second year of implementing Prevention and Support Training. This course is designed for direct support providers and trains them to identify and prevent behavioral emergencies. In situations that involve a behavioral emergency, participants are trained in the least-restrictive responses, including emergency physical intervention techniques. The Division offers free instructor clinics throughout the state during the year. Last year, 48 employees from the provider community began the process to become instructors, and 58 instructors from the previous year completed the renewal process to continue as instructors.

- The Division offers free statewide Article 9: “Managing Inappropriate Behaviors” Instructor Clinics throughout the year. Approximately 80 instructors from the provider community completed the Instructor Certification process for Article 9.
- The Division trained over 110 participants from the provider community in the area of behavior plan development. This training provides an overview of the components of a behavior plan.
- With significant public and stakeholder feedback the Division amended its Qualified Vendor Agreement (QVA), the primary method to contract for Home and Community-Based Services. This amendment, which is effective September 1st, 2014, includes three new services developed to meet the changing needs of our members. These services include:
 - Transition to Employment- A service that provides individualized instruction, training and supports to promote skill development for integrated and competitive employment.
 - Early Childhood Autism Specialized, Habilitation- A service that provides both consultative and direct services to pre-school aged children with autism or at risk of autism and their families; through the development, training, and implementation of an intervention plan targeted to address the core symptoms of autism.
 - Habilitation, Consultation- A service that provides for an assessment and the development of an intervention plan designed to provide strategies for caregivers to teach alternative behavior to improve the integration and success of members in their homes and communities.
- Over the past year, the Division has developed and implemented a new rate setting tool for members who reside in Independent Developmental Homes. This tool has enhanced the Division’s ability to assess the strengths and needs of each member and provides for rates which support members who live in these settings.
- Over the past year, DDD Business Operations worked with two consulting firms to review and update the rates that are paid to Qualified Vendors for Home and Community-Based Services. This process is called a “rate rebase”. The Division pays providers an adopted rate based on the availability of funds. The rebased benchmark and adopted rates were published in the July 1, 2014 rate book and are available on the Division’s Help for Providers Page: https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/Developmental_Disabilities/ddd_ratebook_2014.pdf
- The Department of Economic Security commissioned the Arizona Sustainability and Innovation Work Group, which was formed in response to the economic downturn the country has been experiencing over the last several years. This workgroup was diverse and composed of contracted agency providers, AHCCCS representatives, family members, individual providers, state staff, self-advocates and others. The work group analyzed reliable sources of information to determine how Arizona compared with other states on key

measures then issued a report making recommendations in a variety of areas such as home based and residential services, employment, therapies, case management and other ideas to explore for potential changes and innovations. The Division is working to implement some of the recommendations from the group. Subgroups continue to meet to address ongoing sustainability concerns.

- Over the past year, the Division has continued its efforts to prioritize integrated employment as the primary consideration for adults of working age.
 - The Division continues to participate in a broadly-based statewide partnership working toward a consistent “Employment First” approach for all individuals with a disability. A webinar introducing the initiative was held in April, 2014 and six (6) community forums were conducted around the state to engage stakeholders in the discussion. To further support the effort, the Division has also partnered with other state agencies and stakeholders who are developing the state’s first business leadership network. “Untapped Arizona” supports businesses by connecting them with qualified job candidates that meet their workforce needs and providing technical assistance to support them in hiring and retaining workers with disabilities. An Executive Director has been hired and is in the process of creating a non-profit organization and identifying a Board of Directors that is representative of Arizona business leaders committed to workplace diversity.
 - The Division continues to prioritize efforts directed toward enhancing the successful transition of young adults with intellectual disabilities from school to work. There is an active state level Community of Practice on Transition (CoPT) that meets monthly and is supporting local CoPTs with training and technical assistance. The Division co-sponsored the 13th Arizona Transition Conference, drawing over 800 participants. The Division’s nine (9) District Employment Specialists regularly participate in local high school transition fairs, job fairs, and other events highlighting employment. All Division Employment staff are members of the Arizona Department of Education’s Secondary Transition Mentoring Project, working with local school districts on collaborative transition planning. A new *Transition to Employment* qualified vendor service was recently introduced with a focus toward teaching the “soft skills” needed by all employees to be successful on the job.
 - Related to successful transition to adult life, the Division has continued its joint project with the state’s Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Division provides matching funds to allow the VR program to obtain additional federal monies and hire dedicated staff to work with Division eligible youth in the foster care system. The project established a system of coordinated planning and service provision for youth beginning at age fourteen (14) to better ensure their successful transition to meaningful and sustained employment, education and community living.

- Additionally, the Division is broadening both internal and external awareness of the value of employment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Division began providing a new mandatory Support Coordination training curriculum on the full array of employment services and supports available to members through the Division. The training also outlines the Division's relationship with the Rehabilitation Services Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation Program in the provision of employment services.
 - The Division has generated several success stories highlighting Division members on the job that have been featured by local newspapers and TV news and has made employment stories a standing feature on the Division's website and member newsletter.
 - The Division revised employment service rate-setting with a goal toward building rates that will encourage the provision of integrated, supported and competitive employment services and supports. The Division is a co-sponsor of the DREAM Job Fairs held in October across the state to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year there will be eight (8) job fairs throughout the state bringing together employers ready to hire and Arizonans with disabilities ready to go to work.
- The Division is a member of the Arizona Leadership Team implementing the newly awarded federal PROMISE (Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income) grant. Arizona, as part of a six state consortium that includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah, received one of the five (5) year federal study grants designed to fill gaps in services, remove barriers to successful transition from high school to adult life for young adults on SSI, and increase the self-sufficiency of these young adults. Youth 14-16 years of age who are receiving SSI benefits, and their families, will be eligible to participate in this study. The project Arizona is part of has been titled ASPIRE (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment) and hopes to engage over 1,000 teenagers and their families over the course of the study.
- The Division partners with Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona to provide Partners in Policymaking. Partners in Policymaking is an innovative leadership training program that teaches people to be community leaders, and to affect systems and policy change at the local, state and national levels. The program is designed for individuals who have a disability and for parents raising children with a disability. Partners provides the most current information and education about disability policy, the legislative process, and local, state and national issues that affect individuals with disabilities. Partners' participants are people who are ready to work for long term systems change and for change in public policy. The overall goal of the program is to foster a partnership between people who need and use services for disabilities, and those who determine public policy. Partners' graduates gain the abilities to teach policymakers a new way of thinking about people with disabilities.
- The Division contracts with Raising Special Kids and Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona to provide peer counseling which provides self-help opportunities through education, training,

information, encouragement and support to individuals, families and other caregivers. This service also communicates with professionals in fields such as education, healthcare, child protection and law enforcement to increase awareness and understanding of developmental disabilities.

- The Division's Office of Family and Community Resources delivered 45 presentations during this fiscal year providing outreach to 2,800 people. Attendees included stakeholders, community partners, emergency management teams, school districts, family groups, Division staff, various community fair attendees and health and wellness event attendees.
- The Division, along with its community partners, sponsored the Ninth Annual Direct Support Professionals Recognition event on Friday, September 27, 2013 at the Disability Empowerment Center. These outstanding individuals were honored for their superior service in working with individuals with developmental disabilities. There were 12 awardees which included ten (10) Direct Support Professionals and two (2) Direct Care Supervisors.

XI. Conclusion

The Division is proud to be a leader in its support of individuals and families and continuously seeks to improve its system of family and individual supports. Staff is updating the Qualified Vendor System, including revising the service descriptions and expectations for the services. The Division continues to engage consumers and families to provide valuable ideas on how services should be provided. With the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council, the Division continues to explore new ways to receive input from people with developmental disabilities and their families on how to improve the service delivery system. The Division actively pursues additional employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The Division looks forward to continuing collaboration with the community, stakeholders and other entities to provide quality supports and services in the most inclusive ways and settings.