



# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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## **Arizona DES recognized as “Best Performing” for Medicaid services for individuals with developmental disabilities**

*Ranked first by United Cerebral Palsy fourth year in a row*

**PHOENIX** – The Department of Economic Security announced today its Division of Developmental Disabilities ranks as the nation’s “Best Performing” state when it comes to key outcomes for citizens with developmental disabilities by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). The annual rankings were released in a report entitled, [“The Case for Inclusion, 2015.”](#)

“I am very proud of the work our colleagues in the Department are doing to serve Arizonans in need,” said Director Timothy Jeffries. “By doing our best to serve individuals with disabilities, we are promoting independence and strengthening families. With the Division of Developmental Disabilities leading the way, the Arizona Department of Economic Security is positioning itself to be the best performing human services agency in the nation.”

The UCP report looks at each state’s approach to promoting independence and productivity, ensuring quality and safety, keeping families together and reaching people in need. Arizona’s success in promoting independence among individuals with developmental disabilities helped it earn and maintain the top spot. More than 90 percent of Arizonans with developmental disabilities are served in a home-like setting. Arizona also ranked high when it comes to helping keep families together. It is one of only 14 states that support a large share of families through family support services (at least 200 families per 100,000 people).

The Division of Development Disabilities (DDD) at the Department of Economic Security is extremely proud of the recognition for the services its colleagues provide to the people of Arizona. While it is proud to receive this recognition for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year, it is committed to increasing the level of services offered and promoting productivity.

More information on the Division of Developmental Disabilities is available on the [DES website](#).