



News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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MEDIA CONTACT
Office of Communications
602-542-4296
PIO@azdes.gov

Focus on Job Training, Work Experience and Employment Key to Helping Families Affected by TANF Reduction in Lifetime Benefits

Families Affected Reduced to 973 from 1,600

PHOENIX -- The Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today the number of families affected by the reduction in the 12-month time limit, previously projected at 1,600, now stands at 973. This was due to the Department's proactive approach in reaching out to the affected families ahead of the July 1, 2016, implementation date after the passage of the measure during last year's Legislative session.

"The notions of self-sufficiency and sustainability are not only becoming more relevant, but desired by families," said Director Tim Jeffries. "The idea that families can support themselves without cumbersome, invasive and limiting government involvement is increasingly appealing. That's the true American dream. With our job training, outreach and engagement with those in need, we play an integral part in helping to achieve it."

Through jobs contractors, Maximus and ResCare, more than 1,500 people who were in danger of exceeding the 12-month limitation, have now obtained employment. An additional 245 individuals have received assistance by participating in work experience opportunities. This opportunity allows those with a lack of work history to gain experience. More than 450 other clients have participated in community service activities with employers to make connections and build resumes.

"DES is focused on fulfilling its mission to make Arizona stronger by helping those in need reach their potential through temporary assistance," adds Jeffries. "The Department of Economic Security, as good stewards of taxpayer's money, should work to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient, with the goal that one day they will no longer need benefits."

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