

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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

DES Launches First-time Partnership with Federally Qualified Health Center

NATIVE HEALTH to Join Forces Increasing Community Access to Vital Programs

PHOENIX – In a continuing effort to improve client services and accessibility to vital programs, the Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today it has partnered with NATIVE HEALTH by placing a DES Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME) colleague at NATIVE HEALTH’s Central Avenue location in Phoenix once a week.

“This is a huge step in the right direction,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “Efficient service to those in need is a win-win for both the Department and our communities. I’m proud of the work they do every day to serve our precious clients.”

“SNAP Community Partners are limited in that they currently can’t conduct face-to-face or telephone interviews or take fingerprints when needed,” said Joseph Wefer, Program Specialist with the DES Coordinated Hunger Relief Program. “By placing a DES colleague onsite, it will allow us to better serve the community by giving them the ability to apply for benefits, get fingerprinted and receive an eligibility determination in one location. We’ve seen amazing success partnering with St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona in the same way, so we’re excited to see the benefit from this collaboration as well.”

The bilingual DES eligibility worker will be at NATIVE HEALTH, 4041 North Central Avenue, Building C, Phoenix, Arizona each Thursday from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

NATIVE HEALTH has been actively assisting clients in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the “Food Stamp Program”), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance (CA) and medical coverage through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) via the DES SNAP Community Partnership. A full listing of services can be found on their website at www.nativehealthphoenix.org.

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The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

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