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Governor's Executive Budget Proposal Strengthens Families and Employers with Funding for Essential Department of Economic Security Investments

Funding to Child Care Assistance, System Modernization, SUN Bucks for Children, Adult Protective Services, and More

Phoenix, AZ — A thriving economy is key to an Arizona for Everyone. Today, Governor Hobbs released her Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Executive Budget which includes investments in critical programs and efforts at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES).

Highlights of the DES initiatives funded in the budget proposal include:

Bright Futures AZ: Expanding Access and Affordability of Child Care

- The Executive Budget includes \$191.1 million to support the [Child Care Assistance](#) program and help ensure Arizona families have access to affordable, high-quality child care.
- It also includes \$3 million ongoing from the General Fund to create a grant program for youth ages 5-12 for afterschool and summer programming for working families.

A-to-Z Arizona Portal Implementation

In FY 2024, DES began development of its portion of the statewide A-to-Z Arizona Portal, which will serve as the primary digital platform for individuals and families receiving DES services. The A-to-Z Arizona Portal represents the first step in the State's efforts to improve public digital access and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse by promoting data sharing among State agencies.

- The Executive Budget includes \$1.2 million in ongoing funding from the General Fund, which is expected to draw down \$3.2 million in federal funding to continue the portal implementation with existing State services.

Adult Protective Services: Supporting Vulnerable Adults

- The Executive Budget includes \$16.1 million from the General Fund for the APS program to continue to provide essential services, including case management and crisis intervention, to vulnerable adults who have been a victim of a crime. This funding will

also address reporting growth to help DES maintain the investigator best-practice caseload ratio of 1:25 recommended by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA).

SUN Bucks

The SUN Bucks program, a partnership between the Arizona Department of Education and DES, offers nutrition benefits to families with eligible school-age children during the summer months. Approximately 772,200 Arizona children are projected to be served in FY 2026.

- The Executive Budget includes a \$2.9 million General Fund FY 2025 for summer 2024 participants and \$2.1 million in ongoing funding to DES in FY 2026.

Long Term Care Provider Pay Package

- The Executive Budget includes \$74.6 million ongoing from the General Fund and \$125.9 million in ongoing expenditure authority to increase [DDD](#) and [AzEIP](#) provider rates by 6% over three years.

Supporting Aging Arizonans and Adults with Disabilities

- The Executive Budget includes \$2 million one-time and \$500,000 ongoing from the General Fund for the Area Agencies on Aging to continue to keep individuals stably housed and deliver critical aid, including housing assistance, meals, and home and community based services.