



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Forty-ninth Legislature, First Regular Session

PROGRAM PRESENTATION
Healthy Families Arizona

Background

Healthy Families Arizona (HFAz) is one of two statewide prevention and family support programs administered by the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Division of Children, Youth and Families (Division). The Division uses contractors to provide program, quality assurance, training and evaluation services.

HFAz, which was initiated in 1991, is a community-based, voluntary home visitation program intended to prevent child maltreatment, enhance parent-child interaction and promote child health and development by promoting positive parenting skills and helping parents set and achieve goals for themselves and their children. Home visitation services are delivered by trained home visitors who provide information, guidance and emotional and practical support directly to families in their homes. Services begin during pregnancy or at a child's birth and can last up to five years. Families may be visited anywhere from weekly to quarterly, depending on the family's level of need.

DES contracts with 13 community agencies to implement the HFAz program. The contractors are responsible for establishing program sites, or teams, typically composed of a supervisor, four home visitors, a family assessment worker and a secretary. These teams are located in areas meeting specific criteria such as underutilization of health care services and low income. In addition to contracting for program services, DES contracts for two quality assurance site visits annually to each HFAz location, initial and ongoing training for HFAz program staff and program evaluation.

The HFAz program has expanded since it began in 1991. Initially, there were two program sites, in Tucson and Prescott. By 2003, the program had expanded to 23 sites across the state. As of May 2007, there were 58 program sites serving more than 150 Arizona communities. According to the Office of the Auditor General, in FY 2005-2006, HFAz served 5,173 families at a cost of \$14.9 million. The Division also spent approximately \$1.5 million on quality assurance, training and evaluation services.

Fiscal Information

According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), the FY 2008-2009 budget provides \$10,750,000 for HFAz. This amount consists of \$5,715,800 from the state General Fund and \$5,034,200 from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. The program will serve approximately 5,000 clients in FY 2008-2009 with a total cost of about \$3,700 per family.