

# Arizona Kinship Support Services, AKSS

**KARE Family Centers - Kinship Navigation Services**

<b>Toll Free</b> 1-888-737-7494	<b>Tucson</b> (520) 323-4476	<b>Phoenix</b> (602) 233-0017	<b>Sierra Vista</b> (520) 458-2131	<b>Casa Grande</b> (520) 421-0500
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**ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**  
www.arizonaschildren.org

**www.AZKN.org**

*Creating Connections For Kinship Caregivers*

# Arizona Kinship Support Services

- ▶ Arizona Kinship Support Services (AKSS) is a program of Arizona's Children Association in partnerships with the Arizona Department of Economic Security Family Assistance Administration (DES/FAA) and Department of Child Safety (DCS). The program's target population includes grandparents and other relatives raising children not born to them.
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# Population Demographics

Clients served 10/1/12–9/16/14

3,135 Kinship Caregiver Households

- ▶ 86% (2,692) female, ranging from 18–91 years of age
- ▶ 50 years old average age of caregivers
- ▶ 47% (1,485) identify as Hispanic/Latino and 34% (1,053) identify as White/Caucasian
- ▶ Caregivers represent 20 different Native American Tribes. Three prominent tribes
  - Tohono O'odham
  - Pascua Yaqui
  - Navajo

# Population Demographics

- ▶ 42% (1,172) of caregivers have no legal relationship with the child(ren) in their care at the time of intake
  - ▶ 48% (1,336) have a some form of legal relationship with the child(ren) in their care
  - ▶ 10 % data collection errors in FY1
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# Staffing: Arizona Kinship Navigator (AzKN) Program

- ▶ Cochise County
- ▶ Maricopa County
- ▶ Pima County
- ▶ Pinal County



# Arizona Kinship Support Services



# Cochise County:

Dispersed rural county with several population centers

- ▶ Caryl Marie Brendle



# Maricopa County: Large Metro Community (5<sup>th</sup> largest city in the U.S. )

Renea Jackson, Supervisor



Jessica Delgado



Michelle Closset

Not  
pictured

Rosy Marquez

# Pima County: Metro Community Surrounded by a few rural communities

## ▶ Thelma Morales



## ▶ Rebecca Fealk



## ▶ Brenda Ives



## ▶ Maria R. Avila



# Pinal County: Rural Community in close proximity to Phoenix Metro

## ▶ Beth Lizarraga



# Support Staff

- ▶ Julie Treinen  
Program Director



- ▶ Ana Pineda  
Program Coordinator



- ▶ Pam Harris–Williams  
Office Manager



- ▶ M. Joy Williams  
Family Group Facilitator



# Childcare & Special Services Instructors

- ▶ Alma Ortiz
- ▶ Bella Espinoza
- ▶ Cheryl Walker
- ▶ Evaughn Gray
- ▶ Fadwa El Nabulsi
- ▶ Irma Rubio
- ▶ Joyce Johnson
- ▶ Leticia Sanders
- ▶ Marcia Pineda
- ▶ Nicole Quihuis
- ▶ Yareli Lopez

# Partner Organizations

- ▶ Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) (Child Welfare)
- ▶ Arizona Department of Economic Security Family Assistance Administration (DES–FAA) (TANF Agency)
- ▶ Arizona Grandparents Ambassadors (Advocacy)
- ▶ Casey Family Programs
- ▶ Children’s Law Center (Legal Services)
- ▶ DES Division of Aging and Adult Services
  - Caregiver Resource Line– toll free line
  - Area Agency on Aging– Pima Council on Aging: OAA
- ▶ Kinship Coalition (Kinship Collaboration)
- ▶ LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. (Evaluation)
- ▶ Seeds of Hope (Community Partner)
- ▶ Southern Arizona Legal Aid (Legal Services)

# Project Objectives

1. Ensure kinship families have access to benefits which they are eligible.
  2. Provide linkage to needed legal services.
  3. Navigate existing community support systems.
  4. Strengthen kinship families involved with the child welfare system.
  5. Enhance other community based and government responses for kinship families.
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# 1. Access to Benefits

- ▶ Navigators connect caregivers with FAA and FAA–contracted providers for assistance in accessing cash assistance, health insurance, & SNAP (food stamps)
  - Data sharing agreement allows tracking of accessibility to benefits
- ▶ Caregivers attend clinics & receive individual assistance depending on need and services available in the area
  - Kinship Information Session (KIS)
  - Adoption & Guardianship Training

# 2. Legal Services

## Guardianship Clinics

- ▶ Partnered with SALA & CLC
- ▶ Assist in completion of Title 14 Voluntary Guardianship paperwork
- ▶ Follow-up clinics
- ▶ Court assistance

## Referrals for other legal services

- ▶ SALA: Cochise, Pima and Pinal Counties
- ▶ CLC: Maricopa County

# 3. Navigate Community Support Systems

## ▶ Making Connections

- Behavioral Health (Child and Family Team meetings)
- School System (IEP meetings)
- Court Attendance
- Material Need
  - Diaper Bank
  - Clothing & Payless Shoe Vouchers
  - Rent & Utility assistance referrals

# 3. Navigate Community Support Systems

- ▶ Education / Programming
  - KARE College (topical education)
  - Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) (Maricopa & Pima)
  - Pre-Employment (Pima)
- ▶ Support Groups
  - 13 support groups
  - Enhanced childcare (Maricopa)
  - Hybrid- education/support

# 3. Navigate Community Support Systems

## Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Program

- ▶ Maricopa & Pima Counties
- ▶ Programming for Adults, Teens and Youth
- ▶ Visitation Support
  - Van rides to Perryville & Lewis Prisons
  - Gas cards for other prison visits
- ▶ Post-release Reunification Support
- ▶ Navigation of the Criminal Justice System

# 4. Strengthen kinship families involved with child welfare systems

- ▶ Kinship Information Session
  - ▶ Adoption & Guardianship Training
  - ▶ PS-MAPP
  - ▶ Navigation Support
  - ▶ Data sharing via monthly kinship placement list
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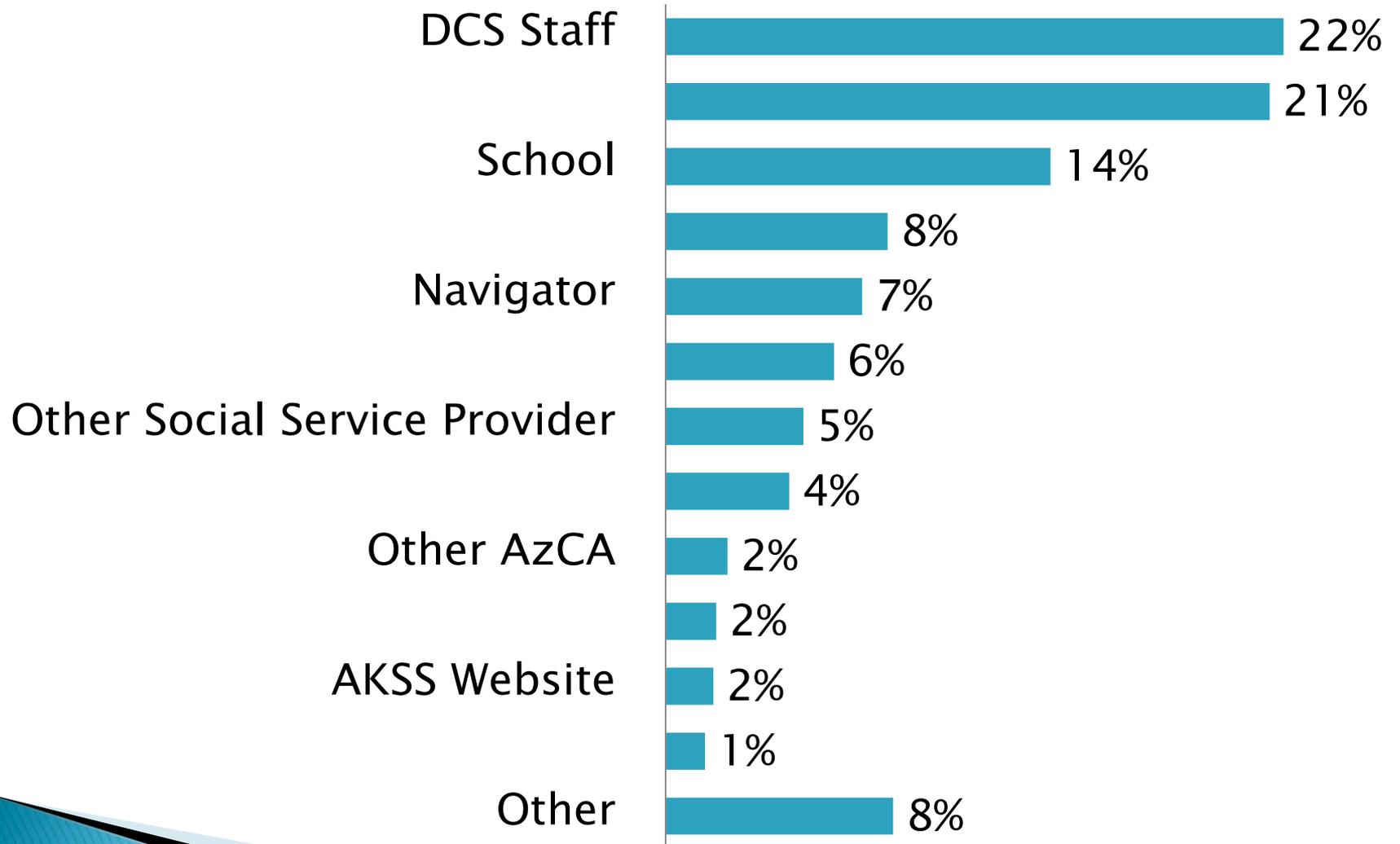
# 5. Enhance other community-based and government responses for kinship families

- ▶ AGA–Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors
  - Founded in 2010
  - Advocacy and Outreach Summits
  - SB1090
- ▶ Kinship Coalition
  - Comprised of 8 community service organizations
  - Resource information exchange

# Outreach

- ▶ Arizona Kinship Support Services website
    - [arizonakinship.org](http://arizonakinship.org)
  - ▶ Outreach events
  - ▶ Caregiver Resource Line
    - 1-888-737-7494
  - ▶ Media
  - ▶ Word of mouth referrals
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# Sources of Referral to AKSS



AKSS Services	Total Adults Attended (Duplicate Counts)	Total Individual Adults (Undup.)	Total Youth in Childcare or Program (Duplicate Counts)	Total Individual Youth (Undup.)
Guardianship Clinic	719	680	93	93
AKSS Event (holiday, seasonal, etc.)	616	455	1018	751
Support Group (14 held regionally)	2,699	351	1591	344
Kinship Information Session	272	261	79	77
Topical Education	307	194	233	186
Guardianship and Adoption Training	180	175	72	72
PS-MAPP	887	122	482	104
CIP Adult Group	548	104	-	-
Advocacy Event	17	15	15	15
Prison Visitation Program	33	10	37	15
CIP Youth Group	-	-	367	116
CIP Teen Group	-	-	234	60
Pre-Employment	-	-	250	29

# Unique & Innovative Features

- ▶ Partnerships / Collaborations
    - KARE Center: Casey Family Programs & Arizona's Children Association
    - AGA
  - ▶ Guardianship Clinics
    - SALA
    - CLC
  - ▶ Children of Incarcerated Parents Program
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# Project Challenges

- ▶ FY1 Outreach and marketing
    - Walk ins
    - Phone calls
    - Web inquiries
  - ▶ DCS kinship placement list
    - Exceeded expectations
    - Time commitment
    - Resources
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# Successful Strategies

- ▶ Triage DCS kinship placement list
  - ▶ Adapted in Rural areas
  - ▶ Bilingual Staff
  - ▶ In-day Schedules
  - ▶ Childcare services
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