

FY20 Annual Progress Report
Title IV-E Reimbursement for Attorney Costs

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1. Reimbursed Funds Received

	County	2019	3rd Quarter	Total
1	Apache	22,511.52	3,966.40	26,477.92
2	Cochise	45,507.10	16,372.26	61,879.36
3	Coconino	109,457.74	32,753.74	142,211.48
4	Gila	56,514.58	15,800.74	72,315.32
5	Graham	33,284.76	9,356.04	42,640.80
6	Greenlee	4,176.04	585.07	4,761.11
7	La Paz	41,997.49	13,575.94	55,573.43
8	Maricopa	3,853,973.64	981,665.00	4,835,638.64
9	Mohave	228,505.29	65,168.69	293,673.98
10	Navajo	47,507.02	17,274.96	64,781.98
11	Pima	1,372,435.53	418,291.95	1,790,727.48
12	Pinal	378,502.34	94,045.82	472,548.16
13	Santa Cruz	68,414.26	25,258.94	93,673.20
14	Yavapai	216,944.70	57,901.88	274,846.58
15	Yuma	105,294.64	31,053.45	136,348.09
	Total	6,585,026.65	1,783,070.88	8,368,097.53

2. Utilization of Reimbursed Funds Received and How the Funds are Utilized:

Note: Most counties have not yet had the opportunity to utilize 2019 or 3rd Quarter 2020 funds due to their reimbursement being received late in the fiscal year.

Maricopa

Social workers for parents in the dependency system

Mohave

Mediator/PP5 Facilitator

Pima

Hired an additional attorney at the Office of Children’s Counsel and currently recruiting for two social workers.

3. Explain how the funds spent had a positive impact on child and/or parent representation.

Maricopa

The Maricopa County Dependency Unit has been using multidisciplinary teams to help parents reunify with their children. The Social Workers assist parents and remove barriers to expedite reunification. This program began as a trial project prior to receiving Title IV-E funds. The Dependency unit has had several successful outcomes in this program. The pilot program was limited to 20 cases. However, with the Title IV-E funding, this program has doubled in size in the last month and Maricopa hopes to continue growing opportunities for parents to participate.

Mohave

The Mediator/PP5 facilitator is responsible for all mediations held in the dependency case. This includes PP5 facilitation and court ordered pre-trial adjudication and pre-severance trial adjudications. The mediator has attended a telephonic meeting with the Pima Superior Court staff, AOC staff and local stake holders regarding the Dependency Alternative Program (DAP) pilot program. The mediator will be the point person, together with the Presiding Juvenile Judge, in the implementation of the DAP program in Mohave County.

Pima

The additional attorney increased capacity to assign cases to in-house attorneys, improved attorney-client ratios and attorneys' ability to manage dependency caseloads and meet statutory time frames.

4. Future Plans: Explain how you anticipate using reimbursed monies in the upcoming fiscal year.

Apache

Additional dependency trainings are to be planned quarterly. Discussions are planned with all stakeholders to explore additional programming options to benefit families.

Cochise

Anticipates using the reimbursed funds to improve attorney-client ratios by expanding contract attorney case assignments and enhancing representation through training and education. The training component is dependent on the availability of in-person CLE due to COVID-19.

Coconino

The Legal Defender's office is planning to use their portion of the funds to increase the hours of their social worker for dependency matters by 16 hours a week. The Public Defender's office is still evaluating how best to use their portion of these funds.

Gila

The Court anticipates employing reimbursed monies to reinvest in the dependency process by relaunching the Dependency Case Processing Initiative (DCPI) program. The DCPI program focuses on intensive support for parents and parents' attorneys involved in a dependency matter

Graham

The Juvenile Presiding Judge and the Court Administrator attended the DAP training on July 30, 2020. From this and other ideas, the Court is working on formulating ideas and projects to work with the community in promoting parenting and reducing dependencies and removals from home.

Greenlee

Continue to pay quality attorneys to assist in dependency caseloads who travel from neighboring counties and hire additional attorneys to help lower the dependency caseload for attorneys. Continue local dependency training for the attorneys.

La Paz

The Superior Court plans to hire a Juvenile Court Commissioner to conduct a regular Dependency calendar and will also conduct mediation hearings for Dependency matters.

Maricopa

Continue to expand the multidisciplinary Social Worker program to reduce the amount of time parents and children are separated. Additional funds will also be used to increase the number of attorneys working on dependency cases in order to reduce per attorney caseloads permitting the attorneys to dedicate more attention and time to each case.

Mohave

Salaries and ERE's have been budgeted to continue to pay the Mediator/Facilitator position. Mohave anticipates that the Mediator/Facilitator will be much more involved as the coordinator for the DAP program pilot for Mohave County. Budget for travel, office supplies, training, copy machine expenses, interpreter expenses, subscriptions and telephones is included in the anticipated expenses. Also, salaries for a part-time position and ERE's is included to insure PP5 hearings are facilitated in the event the Mediator is unavailable due to DAP program duties.

Navajo

Training for judges, attorneys and other involved in the child/parent representation; innovative programs to help family's address aspects of the case plan to prevent delays in the legal proceedings.

Pima

In addition to hiring social workers at the Public Defender and Legal Defender Dependency units, Pima anticipates contracting parent advocates to establish an

interdisciplinary team model, hiring additional in-house attorneys as space allows, implementing a Parent Navigator program, and provide training and education to enhance representation. Pima also plans to evaluate increasing rates for contract dependency attorneys to adequately cover demand and match rates in other Arizona counties.

Pinal

Currently working with the Office of Public Defense Services to come up with a comprehensive plan. A portion will be used to create a new Court Commissioner position that will be focused on Dependency. An additional judicial officer and likely attorneys will better enable Pinal to meet time standards. Additionally, more attorneys added to the dependency process will increase the quality of representation due to lower caseloads.

Santa Cruz

No final decision has been made as yet, but funds will be spent in accordance with the interagency agreement.

Yavapai

Reimbursed monies will be used to fund three new dependency contracts and half the salary of a juvenile attorney (whose case load will be half dependencies and half delinquencies.)

It is anticipated that this will allow attorneys to spend more time assisting clients (parents and children) in dependency cases, both in and out of court. It is expected that this will help improve the already excellent quality of representation, and that the additional support to be provided the clients at hearings, child and family meetings, staffings, team decision meetings and others will help families in the reunification process or, if reunification is not a possibility, will positively impact children's time in the foster care system.

Yuma

It is anticipated that part of the funding will be used to reimburse the County for attorney fees in connection with representation of parents and children in the juvenile dependency program. Additionally, funding may also be used to develop special programs and training opportunities for those involved in the dependency process to improve overall quality, efficiency and effectiveness.