

**How has your county utilized the reimbursed funds that you have received? If yes, how? If your county has not utilized these funds as of yet, when do you anticipate starting to use these funds and how?**

**Apache**

Purchased equipment to develop Pod Casts to educate foster parents, attorneys etc. They have included their local youth council to join us. Apache will be holding another brainstorming session on January 26th.

**Cochise**

Cochise County has not utilized the reimbursed funds yet. They would like to use part or all of their funds for a new defense software system that will be utilized by all three defense offices, as well as the Indigent Defense Coordinator office. They are currently exploring software options to determine the best fit. The system will help track dependency caseloads, as well as other cases. Other ideas are being considered if the software option does not work out.

**Coconino**

The funds received have been used to increase their social/caseworker position from ½ time to full time. This will continue to be funded from these funds into the future.

**Gila**

Funds have been used to relaunch the court's "DCPI" program on September 1, 2020. In 2017-2018, Gila County made use of available "surge" monies to design their local Dependency Case Processing Initiative. The court operated that program until available monies were exhausted. With the availability of a new funding source, the court met with judges and the Gila County Dependency Caseflow Team to consider applications. The "DCPI" program was universally selected by stakeholders.

Gila's DCPI program involves intensive meetings (outside of court hearings) to engage parents in the case plan. A third-party neutral mediator conducts the session with parents and attorneys. The mediator then provides a report after each session. The DCPI sessions, and the reports provided after, allow attorneys to consider additional sources of information thus enhancing their ability to advocate in dependency matters.

**Graham**

Funds have not been utilized yet. Anticipate using funds in FY2022.

**Greenlee**

Funds are used to help pay for indigent defense attorneys who are located in their neighboring county. Funds will also be used to provide training to those involved in their dependencies.

**La Paz**

No funds have been utilized. La Paz hopes to put their plan in motion before the end of fiscal year 2022.

### **Maricopa**

Funds are being used for a Team Based Parent Representation Program. Social workers are added to the representation team to help parents navigate the system and obtain needed and required services. Funding has also been used to increase compensation for contract attorneys to enable them to reduce their caseload, so they may dedicate more time to fewer clients. The attorneys will also receive additional compensation for trial days, to fairly compensate attorneys for their advocacy.

### **Mohave**

Mohave County Superior Court implemented a new DAP program and a DAP coordinator position was created and funded with IV-E reimbursement monies. Funds have also been used to supplement Court expenses as needed for equipment in their new courthouse. Funds will cover a portion of a Judicial Officer's (Judge McCoy) salary together with that of her Judicial Assistant to compensate for the additional duties as the primary Judicial Officer responsible for the DAP cases. Funding will also cover a ½ time administrative assistant position to facilitate DAP program responsibilities when the Coordinator is not available. Additional funds are allocated for expenses including office supplies, misc. supplies, tools and equipment, IT services, training, mentor attorney expenses, telephone and travel.

### **Navajo**

In August, the Presiding Judge became aware that he would not be serving as the Presiding after 12/31/20. The Presiding Judge deferred all decisions regarding utilization of these funds until 2021. The new Presiding Judge will address utilization of the funds once they have had an opportunity to meet and discuss with the stakeholders.

### **Pima**

Pima County Public Defense Services hired three additional employees - a social worker for each of our adult dependency offices (Public Defender and Legal Defender Offices) and one additional dependency attorney in the Office of Children's Counsel. Funds have also been utilized to provide dependency training to their attorneys and social workers to enhance representation.

### **Pinal**

Recruited and hired a full-time Commissioner to concentrate solely on dependencies. Attorneys are also being hired to work on the new "team." The hope is that with an additional judicial officer case, timelines will decrease along with the size of caseloads for attorneys.

### **Santa Cruz**

Has not used any of the reimbursed funds as of yet.

### **Yavapai**

The county has not yet started utilizing IV-E reimbursement monies but anticipate will start using them this quarter.

**Yuma**

Yuma County has used funds to pay attorney fees in connection with the representation of children in dependencies.

***Please explain your future plans for using these reimbursed funds?***

**Apache**

No update.

**Cochise**

Ideas include utilizing the funds to help establish a Dependency Alternative Program (DAP). They have also considered hiring a social worker for one of the defense offices, but have not determined if this is the best use of the funds. May also use the funds to cover the costs of contract attorneys that are assigned to dependency cases.

**Coconino**

Coconino has not calculated what, if any, additional funds may be available once that has been paid. As work is being done on FY 2021 budget, they will see what is still available and make decisions on how best to use those funds.

**Gila**

Would like to continue operation of the DCPI program. Dependency petitions continue to increase in Gila on an annual basis and it is generally felt throughout the dependency system that DCPI will continue to bear benefits to their local case processing.

**Graham**

The Court is interested in creating either a dependency support program or parenting training and education program.

**Greenlee**

Will continue to pay attorneys from these funds and will continue to provide training for attorneys and those individuals involved in dependencies.

**La Paz**

Is currently exploring various options, including mediation, to expedite the handling of dependency cases, and are planning to utilize these funds for that purpose.

**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 to reduce per attorney caseloads permitting the attorneys to dedicate more attention and time to each case.

**Mohave**

Plans to budget similar amounts in FY22 and, perhaps, to explore expanding the program by including dually adjudicated dependent youth.

**Navajo**

Anticipates utilizing these funds as soon as the new Presiding Judge has had an opportunity to explore the options with stakeholders.

**Pima**

Around October 2021, they expect to have additional physical space available to expand their dependency program. Pima intends to implement a Parent Navigator program and hire additional employees to assist in meeting statutory time frames, improve attorney-client ratios and improve attorneys' abilities to manage caseloads. They intend to increase contract rates to attract additional attorneys willing to take dependency cases, contingent on County Administration's approval.

**Pinal**

Exploring the idea of having a case manager for dependency attorneys.

**Santa Cruz**

Santa Cruz is still trying to figure out how best to use the funds.

**Yavapai**

The funds will be used for new dependency contractors that have been hired and to partially fund the conversion of a staff position from 100% delinquency case load to 50% delinquency and 50% dependency.

**Yuma**

The County will continue to use funding to pay attorney fees in dependency cases. It is also planning to use funds for a position to oversee a Dependency Parent Support Program, which is designed to educate and support new parents involved in the Child Welfare System to better navigate the dependency process and to promote timely permanency planning for dependent youth.