

Title IV-E FY22 Annual Progress Report

1. Reimbursed Funds Received

County	Q1 7/1/21 – 9/30/21	Q2 10/1/21-12/31/21	Q3 1/1/22-3/31/22	Q4 4/1/22-6/30/22	Q5* 7/1/22-9/30/22	Total
Apache	\$3,431.87	\$3,312.47	\$3,486.24	\$3,217.64	\$3,184.03	\$16,632.25
Cochise	\$22,159.07	\$22,867.60	\$19,894.79	\$21,509.41	\$20,796.64	\$107,227.51
Coconino	\$38,434.96	\$41,223.35	\$40,278.90	\$41,960.93	\$48,462.11	\$210,360.15
Gila	\$8,050.87	\$6,545.03	\$4,753.09	\$9,884.06	\$3,936.59	\$33,169.64
Graham	\$4,148.63	\$3,200.04	\$5,777.42	\$2,782.29	\$1,975.18	\$17,883.56
Greenlee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
La Paz	\$16,658.03	\$16,424.10	\$16,430.24	\$0.00	\$11,875.01	\$61,387.38
Maricopa	\$691,908.64	\$781,539.95	\$769,666.18	\$916,075.14	\$665,063.13	\$3,824,253.04
Mohave	\$45,879.79	\$40,253.54	\$60,281.20	\$41,036.39	\$38,111.02	\$225,561.94
Navajo	\$6,773.27	\$11,042.82	\$8,149.71	\$11,715.64	\$6,547.59	\$44,229.03
Pima	\$411,274.27	\$389,318.16	\$442,596.94	\$455,151.96	\$314,543.53	\$2,012,884.86
Pinal	\$87,554.46	\$93,375.83	\$94,150.25	\$85,221.86	\$105,381.06	\$465,683.46
Santa Cruz	\$25,467.29	\$8,943.61	\$16,311.47	\$7,638.72	\$14,415.42	\$72,776.51
Yavapai	\$48,385.63	\$44,757.96	\$50,118.88	\$47,017.40	\$45,942.09	\$236,221.96
Yuma	\$20,461.20	\$23,635.07	\$21,071.77	\$20,785.82	\$17,799.64	\$103,753.50
Total	\$1,430,587.98	\$1,486,439.53	\$1,552,967.08	\$1,663,997.26	\$1,298,033.04	\$7,432,024.79

*Pursuant to a recent amendment, the interagency services agreement now uses the federal fiscal year. With this change, FY2023 began on 10/1/22. In order to ensure all monies were included in reporting, the period of 7/1/22 – 9/30/22 has been include in this report as Q5.

2. Explain how the funds were utilized.

Apache

The Court purchased equipment to produce training videos to be made available on the Court's website to address life skills training for teens in foster care and other topics like ACEs, the dependency court process, drug prevention, and resource guides.

Cochise

Beginning in January 2022, Cochise County used IV-E funding to create a paralegal position within the Legal Advocate's Office to assist in providing effective dependency case representation. This newly created paraprofessional has assisted in providing case research, attended case planning meetings, prepared briefs, maintained files, and reviewed fact patterns within each dependency case. This position has been a great asset to the Legal Advocate's Office dependency section.

Coconino

The Public Defender's Office used IV-E funds for salary and ERE for one dependency attorney for whom we wanted to increase hours/benefits and the County would not approve without funding. One paralegal was given dependency duties on top of her felony assignments and was partially reimbursed by these funds. And one temporary employee was hired solely to help with the dependency caseload, thus freeing up the attorneys to be attorneys. Funds were also used to

purchase general office supplies to provide a printer for the juvenile court office, NACC memberships for attorneys, and additional office equipment for dependency support staff. The Legal Defender's Office used funds for increased personnel costs of their social worker dedicated to child representation and also hired an additional half time social worker dedicated to parent representation. Funds were also used for technology to allow remote meetings with clients.

Gila

The DCPI program consists of two to three conferences for each case, in which the families and stakeholders are ordered to participate in at the Pre-Hearing Conference, along with subsequent reporting and follow up. At the Pre-Hearing Conference, the parents are provided with a packet that has important contact and service information on case specific services directed and behavioral changes identified whenever possible. At the first conference, the parents are handed binders which assist in participation, compliance and tracking of the services and behavior changes of each parent.

The funds were utilized by the program to assist twenty-two new families involved in Gila County out of home dependency cases in which services were offered to parents. Of the twenty-two new families, there were forty-nine parents and forty-six children. Of those forty-six, there were fifteen under the age of three. Additionally, continued services were provided to eighteen families who entered the program in the previous fiscal year. Of those eighteen families, there were an additional thirty-nine parents and thirty-one children assisted. Of those thirty-one children, nine were under three.

Between April 1, 2021, and August 12, 2022, there were over two thousand five hundred emails sent/received involving the cases actively involved in the program. There were approximately seventy-one meetings conducted and approximately sixty reports most averaging around twenty pages (or somewhere between eight and thirty-seven pages each) derived from the information obtained before, during and after the seventy-one DCPI conferences.

Graham

Graham County has not yet used reimbursement monies. The county is strategizing the best use of the funds they have received.

Greenlee

The Court used funds to pay for attorney representation in dependency matters and for attorney training.

La Paz

No funds have been utilized to this point; the County is strategizing the best use of the funds.

Maricopa

The County has used funding to design and implement the Team Based Parent Representation program.

Mohave

Program funds were primarily used to fund the salary and operating expenses for DAP program staff as well as for a portion of Commissioner/Judicial Assistant salaries.

Discretionary funds were primarily used to purchase specialized audio/video equipment to assist court participants with remote appearances and enhance electronic display of information in the courtrooms.

Navajo

Hosted legal training for attorneys, court staff, and volunteers from Navajo and Apache Counties. Navajo is also more carefully managing and tracking mandated timeframes and are able to better manage case assignments and improve attorney-client ratios.

Pima

We have utilized the funds for additional dependency employees (attorneys, social workers, paralegals). We have also increased the funding rate for counsel contracted in dependency matters and have provided training to the dependency units at the offices of the Public Defender, Legal Defender, and Office of Children's Counsel.

Pinal

We have been able to add attorneys to handle dependency matters thus improving attorney-client ratios.

Santa Cruz

No funds have been utilized to this point.

Yavapai

The funds were used to pay for one staff attorney and two additional contract attorneys. These funds have also been used to assist with the implementation of DAP in Yavapai County.

Yuma

We have used the funds for attorney fees and for an expert in dependency case defense. The Court also used the funds for a Family Support Specialist who works primarily with parents involved in dependency matters.

3. Explain the positive effect(s) you have seen/expect to see.

Apache

The production of these videos has been delayed due to the pandemic and jury trial backlog, as most of the individuals producing the videos are also court/probation staff. A positive outcome is expected once the video library has been completed.

Cochise

IV-E funds have made a significant impact on the number of dependency cases the Office of the Legal Advocate can work. The additional help has allowed attorneys to assist in more dependency matters. The additional funds will also help attorneys keep up with changes by attending educational programming.

Coconino

The Public Defender's Office has seen a reduction in caseload which has increased their ability to spend more time focusing on cases and better serving the needs of their clients. Continued membership in professional organizations has allowed attorneys opportunities to

increase professional knowledge.

The Legal Defender's Office used funding for a child focused social worker who allows for more frequent contact with child clients, better attendance at CFT meetings, and increased time with attorneys to work on their cases - better representation for children. Parent clients have also benefited from the social worker, receiving guidance, and increasing the possibility of reunification.

Gila

The program is working. DCPI conferences reduce the frequency of and hostility at hearings which directly translates in time, energy and effort saved for the Court, Attorney's, and the families we serve. With the advent and implementation of virtual zoom DCPI conferences, parents can attend the second and/or third DCPI conference virtually and save on the amount of time they must take from employment and other services to keep their attorneys, case managers and service providers up to date on their progress or lack thereof. Children and placement can attend DCPI conferences without the potential fear and intimidation that can accompany an in-person confrontation with a parent, Department of Child Safety worker, or treatment provider. DCPI conferences allow for the exchanging of updated contact information for the parties, efficient communication of services which are no longer requested, and clarification of any additional services requested. The dialogue facilitated in the DCPI conference allows clarification of any discrepancies between what is being reported by a parent, service provider, agency or the Department of Child Safety and streamlines these cases. The meetings and the reports cross reference dates and disclosures, reports, minute entries and orders to summarize the actual status of the case so that any issues may be addressed expeditiously. The meetings and reports allow attorneys to have blunt, organized, fact- based conversations with their clients and a touchstone for better explaining the legal arguments which may or may not exist based on the services requested and provided or not. The reports are a tool for the Attorneys, Families and Court to organize the objective status of the case.

Graham

Not applicable as funding has not yet been utilized.

Greenlee

Greenlee does not have attorneys who reside in the county. The Title IVE funding is allowing Greenlee to pay quality attorneys who travel from neighboring counties.

La Paz

No funds have been utilized to this point.

Maricopa

Maricopa County Public Defense has been Team Based Parent Representation (TBPR) to help parents reunify with their children in dependency cases. This program began as a trial project prior to receiving Title IVE funds. The program has resulted in dependency cases with successful outcomes. With the use of reimbursed IV-E dollars, TBPR continues to grow and there are now more than 400 active cases. A study completed by Arizona State University highlights the success TBPR.

Mohave

There were 24 referrals to the DAP program in FY22 which involved 34 children and yielded 19 successful placements with family or kinship for 27 children. Of the remaining cases, 3 involving 4 children did not reach any agreement and dependency petitions were filed. The other 2 cases involving 3 children were referred improperly since dependency filings were already in process, and it underscores the need for more training with partner organizations.

Navajo

We expect that improved attorney-client ratios will lead to better dependency attorney retention, an area that has been a challenge for some time.

Pima

Attorney caseloads are now more manageable, and attorneys are able to dedicate more attention to each case. The increased contract rate had the desired effect of attracting enough contract attorneys to handle the volume of dependency cases in Pima County. Dependency specific trainings afforded both attorneys and support staff the opportunity to gain additional knowledge to better represent clients.

Pinal

The ability to use attorneys whose primary caseload is dependencies has improved the quality of representation for both children and parents. Similarly, the Judicial Officer whose primary caseload is dependencies has allowed the Court to more successfully meet important time standards.

Additional attorneys whose primary caseload are Dependency cases have been added, and this has increased the quality of representation for both child and parents

Santa Cruz

No funds have been utilized to this point.

Yavapai

The addition of staff and contract attorneys is meant to keep the case volume for existing attorneys at a manageable level to allow them to spend more time assisting their clients and participating in CFTs and other out of court activities. The hope is that the newly created DAP will keep some kids/families out of the formal dependency system while maintaining child safety.

Yuma

We expect to see improved compliance and parental engagement in dependency matters. It is also anticipated that Yuma will see a reduction in the number of case continuances and, in general, a reduction in participant anxiety about the Dependency process. Ultimately, we hope to see an improved trust in the system and an increased number of family reunifications.

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

Apache

Continue efforts on video production. Discussion have also taken regarding in person

training for individuals involved in dependency matters like parents, attorneys, case workers, foster parents, and other court partners.

Cochise

Expand efforts to initiate and maintain a Dependency Alternative Program. Additionally, we would like to hire a social worker to assist attorney for parents and children. And, finally, they will engage attorneys in training to better meet the demands of the dependency caseload.

Coconino

The Public Defender's Office received approval to increase the hours a dependency attorney by accessing these funds. Additionally, for the upcoming fiscal year, we will increase the opportunities to travel for professional trainings and conferences as well as to home visits for clients who are placed throughout the state. A plan is in the works to hire part-time staff to assist with the administrative duties that support our dependency attorneys. We will continue to use funds to pay for attorney salaries, support staff, and supplies. If the opportunity arises, (pandemic willing) we will support offering training locally for clients and attorneys. The newly revised rules of juvenile procedure have reinforced the need for extensive travel to meet with clients. We anticipate this will increase travel expenses to visit with clients.

The Legal Defender's Office has hired another part time social worker with the specific intent of supporting parents and placements in accessing services and facilitating reunification occurring in a shorter timeframe. They are also seeking to improve dependency representation in the contract attorney arena by designating funds for social workers to help contract attorneys with required visits.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the DCPI program will continue to improve and update the binders and handouts provided to the parties and the children in out of home care. The DCPI program will continue to serve families and expedite permanency for Gila County children.

Graham

Because the Court has used the same pay structure for over a decade, Graham County is considering increased compensation for representation. The Court also plans to contract ancillary services that will facilitate assistance to parents to effectively work with the attorneys and DCS case workers. We will utilize funds to cover travel costs for attorneys regularly and effectively visiting children in placement.

Greenlee

The County will continue to pay for quality attorneys to assist with dependency cases and will continue to provide training for the attorneys.

La Paz

They are investigating the possibility of initiating a Dependency Alternative Program (DAP) and/or a mediation program for dependency cases.

Maricopa

Maricopa will add 2 additional social work positions and vehicles over the next year. They will be working to implement a variety of prevention programs and are working closely with other county partners. They also plan on developing the dependency portion of their case

management system.

Mohave

Recently hired a new DAP Coordinator (previous staff relocated) and the expect the expenses associated with this position to increase. We will increase the DAP training of dependency case partners and collaborators not just in Kingman but in Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City as well.

Navajo

We will continue to offer education and training opportunities and will better track and manage case assignments.

Pima

We intend to use these funds for a portion of the cost of a new cloud-based case management system. The new system will allow secure access to cases from any location with internet access and will provide a portal for contract attorneys to submit billings.

Pinal

Pinal County will continue to work closely with the Office of Public Defense Services and to have a comprehensive plan in place to monitor dependency numbers, all to ensure that there is quality child and parent representation in dependency matters. Additionally, we will continue to track and adhere to time standards that should help ensure improved timeliness and permanency for children and families.

Santa Cruz

We plan to use the funds to improve the ability of attorneys to manage dependency caseloads and to improve the attorney-client ratios as well as also provide needed training to attorneys in dependency matters.

Yavapai

Will continue to use the funding to support the additional attorney positions and the DAP program. We are considering creating a travel stipend for attorneys, adding social workers to assist attorneys, and paying for attorneys to attend specialized training and cover costs of child welfare specialization for those interested. We will also look at a collaborative effort to help create programs and pay for equipment to facilitate virtual appearances at certain proceedings, to alleviate travel burden for parents and attorneys.

Yuma

The Family Support Specialist will continue to assist families in need. Funding will also be used for attorney fees, including those of advisory counsel in DAP matters.