

**Title IV-E Foster Care Legal Representation  
FFY 2025 Annual Progress Report**

The Title IV-E Foster Care Program is funded through an annual appropriation and operates as an open-ended entitlement grant. The Department of Child Safety (DCS, Department) serves as the state Title IV-E agency, responsible for administering the program. Administrative costs, including those for independent legal representation, are matched at a rate of 50 percent. Title IV-E funds provide Arizona counties with an opportunity to invest in initiatives that enhance high-quality legal representation for children and parents. These initiatives may include preventing dependency filings, implementing parent mentoring programs, meeting Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) timeframes, offering training and education, managing attorney caseloads effectively, strengthening attorney-client relationships, and establishing multidisciplinary teams with attorneys, social workers, and parent advocates.

**Reimbursed Funds Received**

<b>County</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3*</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Total</b>
Apache	\$3,778.78	\$9261.10	\$3,725.25	\$4,167.81	\$20,932.94
Cochise	\$30,464.33	\$26,685.75	\$29,170.24	\$25,554.19	\$111,874.51
Coconino	\$44,643.15	\$39,835.41	\$43,863.48	\$43,903.34	\$172,245.38
Gila	\$10,291.45	\$7,165.36	\$7,776.59	\$9,597.58	\$34,830.98
Graham	\$5,739.00	\$5,679.23	\$3,189.66	\$2,651.51	\$17,259.40
Greenlee	\$291.91	\$810.33	\$810.33	\$113.39	\$2,025.96
La Paz	\$67,086.58	\$17,175.90	\$27,943.29	\$65,654.00	\$177,859.77
Maricopa	\$654,150.77	\$665,150.94	\$687,351.36	\$631,682.40	\$2,638,335.47
Mohave	\$ 39,285.94	\$ 32,432.04	\$ 33,111.30	\$ 42,791.79	\$147,621.07
Navajo	\$5,266.91	\$7,661.96	\$9,282.23	\$7,634.31	\$29,845.41
Pima	\$375,917.21	\$509,094.06	\$391,257.93	\$596,012.82	\$1,872,282.02
Pinal	\$109,784.74	\$106,710.11	\$109,276.09	\$124,944.72	\$450,715.66
Santa Cruz	\$6,405.24	\$4,367.35	\$12,478.21	\$16,449.45	\$39,700.25
Yavapai	\$65,894.08	\$8,244.98	\$49,228.91	\$39,356.19	\$162,724.16
Yuma	\$12,854.69	\$16,020.79	\$20,127.93	\$19,603.74	\$68,607.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,431,854.78</b>	<b>\$1,456,295.31</b>	<b>\$1,428,592.80</b>	<b>\$1,630,117.24</b>	<b>\$5,946,860.13</b>

\* DCS retains \$95,000 per year for an administrative fee. The administrative fee for FFY2025 was taken out of the Q3 county disbursements. The amount entered for each county in column Q3 reflects the amount the county received after their portion of the administrative fee was taken out.

**Number of Children and/or Parents Provided with Legal Representation**

<b>County</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Apache	26	93	132	142
Cochise	445	460	396	316
Coconino	352	366	393	391
Gila	288	309	313	309
Graham	119	124	101	75
Greenlee	19	17	9	6
La Paz	74	71	60	58
Maricopa	6,244	6,413	6,765	7,121
Mohave	844	796	732	780
Navajo	220	290	254	269
Pima	5,608	5,136	4,853	4821
Pinal	1,543	1,523	1,507	1,603
Santa Cruz	171	151	154	160
Yavapai	895	831	812	746
Yuma	485	489	451	451

**Use of Reimbursed Funds**

**Apache County**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>   N/A		
<b>TOTAL Spent</b>	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL Remaining</b>	\$101,562.67	

**Cochise County**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>   \$48,781.42	10/1/24 – 9/30/25	Wages/EREs for Dependency Legal Secretary for Legal Advocate’s Office
<b>2</b>   \$2,541.07	10/1/24 – 9/30/25	Dependency Related Training Expenses
<b>3</b>   \$667.35	10/1/24 – 9/30/25	Per diem/Mileage Reimbursements for Dependency Client Visits for Attorneys
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>\$51,989.84</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>	<b>\$262,117.37</b>	

**Coconino County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$64,609.26	FFY25	Wages, compensation
<b>2</b>	\$1,739.00	FFY25	Personal Liability Insurance
<b>3</b>	\$359.00	FFY25	Per diem
<b>4</b>	\$35.00	FFY25	Other Travel
<b>5</b>	\$214.20	FFY25	Mileage
<b>6</b>	\$8,800.00	FFY25	Contract Attorney Fees
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$75,756.46</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$166,397.47</b>	

**Gila County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$17,504.00	10/2/25	Expenses to manage their Dependency Case Processing Initiative program
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$17,504</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$221,316.29</b>	

**Graham County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$200.00	July 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>2</b>	\$1,600.00	Aug 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>3</b>	\$800.00	Sept 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>4</b>	\$1,400.00	Oct 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>5</b>	\$1,000.00	Nov 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>6</b>	\$1,200.00	Dec 2024	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
<b>7</b>	\$1,400.00	Jan 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.

Amount		Date	Brief Description
8	\$200.00	Jan 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate for DAP attorney.
9	\$5,100.00	Jan 2025	Additional \$300 flat rate for JD representation on cases that remained open beyond 12 months.
10	\$1,800.00	Feb 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate for JD representation.
11	\$1,500.00	Feb 2025	Additional \$300 flat rate for JD representation on cases that remained open beyond 12 months.
12	\$68.64	Feb 2025	Mileage to visit children re JD representation.
13	\$200.00	Mar 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
14	\$400.00	Apr 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for DAP attorney.
15	\$400.00	May 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for JD representation.
16	\$400.00	May 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for DAP attorney.
17	\$200.00	June 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate for JD representation.
18	\$200.00	June 2025	Additional \$200 flat rate per initial case assignment for DAP attorney.
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$18,068.64</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$90,845.04</b>	

### Greenlee County

Amount		Date	Brief Description
1	N/A		
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$7,486.63</b>	

### La Paz County

Amount		Date	Brief Description
1	N/A		
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$394,169.05</b>	

**Maricopa County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	181,917.63	10/1/24-9/30/25	FAST prevention program – attorney salary
<b>2</b>	22,995.46	10/1/24-9/30/25	Mileage for dependency staff
<b>3</b>	15,445.85	10/1/24-9/30/25	Fuel & vehicle maintenance for social worker vehicles
<b>4</b>	225,928.80	10/1/24-9/30/25	Contract social workers
<b>5</b>	18,067.31	10/1/24-9/30/25	Training for dependency staff
<b>6</b>	1,402,971.55	10/1/24-9/30/25	Staff office social worker salaries
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		\$1,867,326.60	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		\$10,328,634.00	

**Mohave County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$92,558.75	Bi-Weekly	Personnel – Salary
<b>2</b>	\$24,080.73	Bi-Weekly	Personnel – ERE
<b>3</b>	\$232.91	Oct 2024-Feb 2025	Office, Miscellaneous Supplies
<b>4</b>	\$4,691.00	May 2025	IT/Data Processing Services
<b>5</b>	\$1,836.94	Oct 2024 - Aug 2025	Training/Travel
<b>6</b>	\$616.13	Monthly	Communications
<b>7</b>	\$540.00	Jan 2025	Membership Dues, Subscriptions
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$124,556.46</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$23,064.61</b>	

**Navajo County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$2,179.34	FFY2025	Overseeing compliance to mandated timeframes, improving the ability of attorneys to manage case load, improving attorney/client ratios.
<b>2</b>	\$967.75	FFY2025	Travel for Training and Education
<b>3</b>	\$625.00	FFY2025	Dependency Alternative Program – Preventing dependency filings without jeopardizing child safety.
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$3,772.09</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$244,656.49</b>	

**Pima County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$1,056,522.88	10/01/24-09/30/25	Office of Court Appointed Counsel
<b>2</b>	\$661,064.34	10/01/24-09/30/25	Salaries and ERE
<b>3</b>	\$7,353.22	10/01/24-09/30/25	Supplies
<b>4</b>	\$10,021.78	10/01/24-09/30/25	Employee Training and Travel
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$1,734,962.22</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$2,078,568.54</b>	

**Pinal County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$231,018.19	FFY25	Wages & EREs for Judges
<b>2</b>	\$187,000.00	FFY25	Attorney Services billing
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$418,018.19</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$885,469.59</b>	

**Santa Cruz County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$11,000.00	3/7/25 to 4/18/25	Salary and ERE for Coordinator
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$11,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$347,156.66</b>	

**Yavapai County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$5,063.56	10/4/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>2</b>	\$5,063.56	10/18/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>3</b>	\$5,252.71	11/1/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>4</b>	\$5,252.71	11/15/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>5</b>	\$4,917.86	11/29/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>6</b>	\$5,847.97	12/13/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>7</b>	\$5,847.99	12/27/2024 (Q1)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker
<b>8</b>	\$5,847.97	1/10/2025 (Q2)	Funding 50% of two attorneys, 100% of social worker

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>9</b>	\$8,902.84	1/24/2025 (Q2)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>10</b>	\$9,124.84	2/7/2025 (Q2)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>11</b>	\$9,124.84	2/21/2025 (Q2)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>12</b>	\$9,124.84	3/7/2025 (Q2)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>13</b>	\$9,124.84	3/21/2025 (Q2)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>14</b>	\$9,124.84	4/4/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>15</b>	\$9,124.84	4/18/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>16</b>	\$9,124.84	5/2/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>17</b>	\$9,124.84	5/16/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>18</b>	\$8,009.87	5/30/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>19</b>	\$9,124.84	6/13/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>20</b>	\$9,124.84	6/27/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>21</b>	\$5,427.14	6/30/2025 (Q3)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>22</b>	\$9,045.25	7/11/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>23</b>	\$9,268.98	7/25/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>24</b>	\$9,268.98	8/8/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>25</b>	\$9,268.98	8/22/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>26</b>	\$9,268.98	9/5/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>27</b>	\$9,268.98	9/19/2025 (Q4)	Funding 100% of one attorney, 100% of social worker
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$212,072.73</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$379,758.28</b>	

**Yuma County**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>1</b>	\$48,805.00	10/1/24-6/30/25	Family Support Specialist position
<b>2</b>	\$22,663.00	7/1/25-10/31/25	Family Support Specialist position
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>		<b>\$71,468.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$142,297.33</b>	

**Enhancing High Quality Legal Representation** – Based on the County’s described use of reimbursed funds, please outline the ways in which the reimbursement contributed to enhancing high-quality legal representation.

<b>County</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Apache	Due to staff turnover and other court projects, no funds were spent during FY25. Expenditures from the previous fiscal year are still totaled at \$9,904.06, leaving a total of \$101,562.67 remaining.
Cochise	Title IV-E has allowed Cochise County to add additional paraprofessional support to the Legal Advocate department. The added support has increased productivity towards dependency case representation for their dependency attorneys. This additional support has contributed to the office’s continued diligent representation of children and/or parents in dependency matters. The funded position has enabled the Legal Advocate department to handle the highest average number of dependency cases among the Public Defender, Legal Defender and Legal Advocate offices. The statistics chart below provides the comparison of these averages, further supporting the paraprofessional’s significant role in handling dependency matters. Additionally, we are able to ensure our dependency attorneys and staff are kept up to date with the latest rules and mandates by attending trainings in person or through webinars. Finally, many of the children represented live outside the county. The per diem reimbursements for dependency attorneys improves representation by allowing travel for in person visits with dependency clients.

County	Explanation
Coconino	<p>Legal Defender – Title IV funds allowed the LDO to continue employing child and parent advocates. The advocates enhance our attorneys’ ability to communicate with clients, facilitate access to services, gather information, and present relevant evidence and argument to courts on behalf of clients. Further, Title IV funds allowed the LDO to send an advocate to dependency-related training. Lastly, Title IV funds allowed the LDO to offer private contract attorneys a stipend, which attracted experience attorneys to the field.</p> <p>Public Defender – FY25 I-VE Funds were used for the salary and ERE for: one full time, one three quarter and one half time dependency attorneys, one full time legal assistant and one full time social worker, as well as covering expenses for home visits. Other support staff were given additional dependency duties to assist the attorneys on top of their regular workload. In terms of geographical area Coconino County is the largest county in Arizona, spanning 18,661 miles. Children often are placed in homes outside of Coconino County. Funds were earmarked to enable staff to meet with clients in person wherever their placements were located. The funds reimbursed mileage, paid for transportation, and vehicle rentals. Funds were also used for training, travel, membership fees, and specialized resources specific to dependency representation.</p>
Gila	<p>Gila County uses Title IV-E reimbursement funds for their Dependency Case Processing Initiative to provide additional information to attorneys in dependency cases. This additional information comes from the program manager in the form of number of contacts with parents, participation of parents/children in services ordered by the Court, and general information as to party engagement. Some of this information is not obtained by attorneys and thus they are better informed when representing their clients.</p>
Graham	<p>Graham County dependency attorneys receive a flat rate of \$1,700 per case assignment for dependency representation (County General Fund pays \$1,500, Title IV-E pays \$200). If the case remains open for more than 12 consecutive months, attorneys receive an additional \$300 for the subsequent year. Travel/mileage reimbursement is also paid when an attorney visits a dependent child. The advisory counsel for their Dependency Alternative Program receives a flat rate of \$1,700 per case (County General Fund pays \$1,500, Title IV-E pays \$200).</p>
Greenlee	<p>Greenlee County did not use any reimbursed funds for 2025.</p>
La Paz	<p>N/A</p>

County	Explanation
Maricopa	<p>The use of funds for social workers for the Team Based Parent Representation program allowed clients to gain access to needed services in order to successfully resolve a dependency matter. Funds were also expended on the Family Advocacy and Support Team program, which targets pregnant women at risk of a dependency filing at birth. The purpose of this program is to prevent the dependency by providing services pre-birth and pre-filing.</p>
Mohave	<p>During federal fiscal year 2025, program funds were used for personnel expenses for program staff, and operating expenses such as supplies and items needed to facilitate meetings with dependency partners who are actively involved in enhancing and expanding the program. We continue to conduct Dependency Alternative Program (DAP) hearings, Family Treatment Court (FTC), train new DCS staff, and retrain existing DCS staff on DAP procedures to encourage referrals for appropriate families to enter DAP instead of DCS custody. We continue to hold our Family Treatment Court in Kingman. The DAP program contributes to enhancing high-quality legal representation as it decreases the number of children entering juvenile dependencies, which then positively attributes more attention for attorneys to focus on those children in care. Likewise, FTC contributes by allowing parents to receive wrap around services, earlier reunifications, and less recidivism, therefore, reducing caseloads.</p>
Navajo	<p>Reimbursement funds contributed to preventing dependency filing without jeopardizing child safety through a dedicated coordinator overseeing the Dependency Alternative Program from intake through resolution. Reimbursement funds supported compliance to mandated timeframes, improving the ability of attorneys to manage their dependency caseloads, and improving attorney-client ratios through the work of a dedicated coordinator responsible for tracking and monitoring timelines, conducting data collection and analysis, and facilitating case load distribution for all cases from petition through resolution. Reimbursement funds were utilized for dependency related training and education.</p>

County	Explanation
Pima	<p>Title IV-E funding offsets 25 percent of the fees for contracted dependency counsel, enabling Pima County Public Defense Services (PDS) to attract and retain a sufficient number of contract attorneys to manage the volume of dependency cases. In addition, by funding salaries and employee-related expenses (ERE) for eight to nine staff members—including three attorneys, two social workers, three paralegals, and one support clerk—PDS has achieved more manageable dependency caseloads. Improved attorney-client ratios have allowed attorneys to devote greater time and attention to each case. Increased support staff capacity has also enhanced the delivery of client services by facilitating home visits, providing direct client assistance, and expediting disclosure processing. Reimbursed funds were also used to purchase essential office supplies and services for these PDS employees, including bar membership, a portion of the case management system, and cell service for attorneys and social workers. Finally, the funding supported specialized training for the PDS’ dependency units—the Public Defender Adult Dependency, Legal Defender Adult Dependency, and Office of Children’s Counsel—to strengthen expertise in handling dependency matters.</p>
Pinal	<p>Attorneys whose primary caseload are Dependency cases have increased the quality of representation for both children and parents. The Judicial Officers whose caseload is solely comprised of Dependency cases have allowed the Court to meet time standards.</p>
Santa Cruz	<p>The reimbursement covered a portion of the Dependency Coordinator’s salary. The coordinator is a great resource for Dependency Attorneys. The coordinator hosts an annual Santa Cruz County Dependency Conference for dependency attorneys, where they are provided with educational training to improve their performance, expand their knowledge and to keep them updated with the latest changes in law and/or local procedures. When there are new dependency attorneys, the coordinator handles the onboarding process and makes sure that the new attorneys take the dependency training provided by AOC. The coordinator collects the training certificate and provides it to the Judge. Once this process is completed, the Judicial Assistant can add the new attorney to the panel and the court can assign that attorney a case. Frequently, attorneys reach out to the coordinator to obtain copies of minute entries, reports, or to double check future court dates.</p>

<b>County</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Yavapai	<p>The Title IV-E funds were used to pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On September 30, 2024, 100% of a Social Worker (Juvenile Dependency Specialist) to assist the in-house attorneys.</li> <li>• Partial funding of two in-house dependency position (50% of each paid by this fund) through December 2024.</li> <li>• In January 2025, 100% of an attorney (in lieu of two attorneys at 50%).</li> <li>• Defense counsel appearances in the Dependency Alternative Program (DAP).</li> <li>• Contract counsel.</li> </ul>
Yuma	<p>The Juvenile Court has maintained the Family Support Specialist position. The specialist has been a great addition to the Dependency process. The specialist educates and supports new parents involved in the Child Welfare System and promotes timely permanency planning for dependent youth. This position provides case management support and assists parents with navigating the sometimes confusing and difficult process. This position helps support legal representation by assisting the parents throughout the entire process.</p>

**Initiatives Underway** – Based on the County’s described use of reimbursed funds, please describe the initiatives the County is undertaking to enhance high-quality legal representation.

<b>County</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Apache	<p>Apache County is exploring the possibility of developing a court liaison to work with court partners. Since the DCS office within Apache County has closed, and all cases being transferred to the Navajo County DCS office, parents, foster parents, attorneys, etc. are in need of additional assistance with communication, resource information, and caseload management. This individual will help fill the void of the vacated DCS office in Apache County. Apache County continues to be committed to resolving dependency cases. It is our aim that through this liaison, we can do our part in providing favorable, permanent outcomes that are in the best interest of the children.</p>
Cochise	<p>Cochise County is actively exploring how Prevention Legal Services are working in other counties. We are coordinating presentations with AOC and our county’s dependency defense attorneys and staff to assess opportunities for enhancing and expanding our local prevention services. Our objective is to strategically implement new initiatives that will maximize the use of allocated Title IV-E funds throughout the fiscal year.</p>

County	Explanation
Coconino	<p>Legal Defender – Funds are used to maintain initiatives that provide significant and enduring support to attorneys. The funds allow attorneys to focus on legal work aimed at protecting client rights and advancing client wishes.</p> <p>Public Defender – Additional attorney hours and support staff time dedicated solely to dependencies, has increased the ability to spend more time focusing on cases and better serving the needs of our clients. As a result, more favorable outcomes overall for the people we serve are anticipated. Membership in professional organizations focusing on child welfare and representation has allowed attorneys to increase their professional knowledge and seek learning opportunities as they arise. Having adequate administrative support and dedicated office supplies allows them to provide better service to clients and efficiently address specific needs.</p>
Gila	<p>Gila County has employed Title IV-E reimbursement funding to relaunch the court’s Dependency Case Processing Initiative (“DCPI”). Originally designed in 2019, DCPI operated for two years before the previous funding source was depleted. Title IV-E funding provided the means to relaunch (and sustain) the program. Cases meeting the criteria are referred to the DCPI program. The referral can come from DCS, the Attorney General’s Office, or upon request of attorneys. Parties in a DCPI case meet between report and review hearings with the DCPI Program Manager. Intakes for services are scheduled (or followed up on). The DCPI Program Manager reports upon the progress / compliance of parties with ordered services and the reports are provided to counsel, court, and parties. Attorneys typically attend DCPI meetings with their clients.</p>
Graham	<p>Graham County is a small rural area with limited resources. Most indigent defense attorneys reside in other counties, resulting in excessive travel and lodging cost. In 2023, Graham County offered a rate increase of \$200 per case assignment for dependency representation. Graham County also pays an additional \$300 for cases that remain open for more than 12 months. This can be a helpful incentive to attract high-quality legal representation from metropolitan areas. Mileage reimbursement helps to offset travel costs for out-of-county attorneys who visit dependent children. This can strengthen attorney-client relationships. In 2025, Graham County implemented the Dependency Alternative Program. The DAP attorney has extensive experience in family and probate law. Advisory Counsel’s professional negotiating skills contributed toward several successful resolutions, resulting in fewer dependency filings, lower costs for the State and County, and reduced trauma to the families.</p>
Greenlee	<p>We are looking into starting the DAP Program in the near future with these funds.</p>
La Paz	<p>N/A</p>

County	Explanation
Maricopa	Maricopa County is continuing to invest in Team Based Parent Representation and FAST. These two programs are the majority of Title IVE Operating funding. We are using the fund balance to make a one-time improvement to help the system. This includes training initiatives, Case Management, facility development and vehicle purchases to allow for more efficient home visits.
Mohave	Continuing the DAP program and FTC, the court will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement cross-disciplinary training to promote collaboration and a shared understanding of obligations within the program,</li> <li>- Host regular multi-disciplinary round tables to discuss legal updates, case law trends, effective advocacy strategies, and other “hot topics” in dependency court,</li> <li>- Attend dependency partner meetings.</li> <li>- Expand FTC to the Bullhead City and/or Lake Havasu City locations.</li> <li>- Continue to explore ways of being proactive, data-informed, and collaborative to ensure high-quality legal advocacy while reducing time in foster care and improving permanency outcomes.</li> </ul>
Navajo	Overseeing compliance to meeting time frames, improving the ability of attorneys to manage case load and improving attorney/client ratios. The County will also build upon the foundation of the existing Dependency Alternative Program by continuing the current efforts and expanding its reach and impact. The County will continue to attend and to facilitate dependency related trainings and education.
Pima	PDS is implementing several initiatives to enhance the quality of legal defense representation in dependency cases. PDS continues to operate the Family Preservation Legal Clinic and Dependency Alternative Program, which focus on reducing family separation and promoting family stability. PDS remains committed to the training and professional development of attorneys and support staff to ensure personnel remain current on best practices, emerging case law, and holistic defense strategies. In addition, PDS anticipates improved operational efficiency through an upgraded case management system. These initiatives enable attorneys to dedicate more time to direct client representation and strengthen the overall effectiveness of PDS’s dependency representation system.
Pinal	The court will work closely with the Office of Public Defense Services to have a comprehensive plan in place to monitor dependency numbers and ensure that there is quality child and/or parent representation in dependency cases. Dependency numbers are tracked to ensure timeliness and adherence to case requirements.

<b>County</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Santa Cruz	The court plans to continue hosting the annual dependency conference for attorneys, which has proven highly successful and well received. Each year, the conference provides an opportunity to introduce new trainings and address topics informed by judicial feedback and courtroom needs. This approach allows us to focus on specific areas of improvement and ensures that attorneys are equipped to deliver high-quality representation.
Yavapai	The county will use the funds to provide social work services and an additional attorney to the dependency unit. The county will continue to participate in DAP with the goal of reducing the number of children removed from their homes while still ensuring safety.
Yuma	The county will continue to fund the Family Support Specialist position. The county also approved an increase in amount paid per case.

**Upcoming Initiatives** – Please describe the County’s strategy for utilizing funds in the coming year to enhance high-quality legal representation.

<b>County</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Apache	75% of IV-E funds will be allocated to enhance/develop the court liaison position. The remaining 25% will be set aside for education/training purposes, including the development/production of the video training library.
Cochise	Cochise County Indigent Defense plans to implement new initiatives proposed by dependency attorneys on how we can enhance our current initiatives towards dependency representation. The county will also explore implementation of prevention services such as the Family Advocacy and Support Team and the Family Preservation Legal Clinic. Cochise County is committed to ultimately strengthening support for at-risk families and improving outcomes within our community.
Coconino	<p>Legal Defender—Current usage of funds has been very successful in enhancing legal representation of parents and children, the LDO strategy will be to maintain these enhancements by continuing to utilize funds in largely the same way. The LDO will be alert to any additional creative uses.</p> <p>Public Defender -- 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. Currently, our ratio of attorney/support staff to clients is sufficient to provide the time and attention these cases require. We will continue to use funds to pay for attorney salaries which the County will not cover, supplemental support staff hours, and provide supplies required to support the dependency attorneys. As the opportunity arises, local training for attorneys and clients will be provided.</p>

County	Explanation
Gila	Gila’s DCPI program has not experienced the type of referral volume that has existed in past years. Such being the case, the court will reevaluate the program and, potentially, modify DCPI to be more inclusive (if possible). Additionally, the court may investigate other programs from other counties that fall under the umbrella of Title IV-E funding. Lastly, the court may inquire as to whether or not the existing Dependency Alternative Program (“DAP”) can be expanded under this funding source.
Graham	Graham County will continue to utilize Title IV-E funds for the causes stated above. We are also considering technology upgrades and various trainings for dependency judges, staff, and attorneys.
Greenlee	In 2026, we will sponsor a dependency training for all attorneys, judges and staff members assigned to dependency cases in Greenlee County.
La Paz	The county would like to use the funds for a Contract Dependency Judge (Pro Tem), a Dependency Coordinator, and a Dependency Courtroom Clerk. The addition of these positions will improve the representation of parents and children in dependencies because attorneys will have sufficient advance notice of appointments and proceedings to allow them to contact their clients prior to the Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH). The Court will be aware of conflicts and be able to assign alternative counsel prior to the PPH. Attorneys will have sufficient and accurate information to prepare to represent their clients in subsequent hearings. And the court will be able to ensure that all attorneys obtain and maintain the appropriate required training to represent parents and children in dependency cases in the court.
Maricopa	The county will utilize staff and contract social workers in the Team Based Parent Representation plan. Evaluation of the FAST program will continue to determine effectiveness of growing the program. Other alternative prevention programs will be reviewed. However, operating Title IVE funds are fully appropriated. The county is evaluating the use of fund balance to determine the most appropriate uses without developing programs that are unsustainable due to fully appropriated operating funds. The large fund balance is due to receiving a significant amount of funding all at once and a slow development of prevention programming.
Mohave	With this funding, we plan to develop a training program consistent with our DAP and Family Treatment Court program goals and fund multi-disciplinary team meetings. We will continue to use the grant for our program personnel salary and EREs and an outside DAP advisory attorney.

County	Explanation
Navajo	The county will use the funds to enhance compliance in meeting time frames and improving the ability of attorneys to manage case load and attorney/client ratios. The County will also build upon the foundation of the existing Dependency Alternative Program by continuing the current efforts and expanding its reach and impact. The County will continue to attend and to facilitate dependency related trainings and education.
Pima	As the Title IV-E fund balance declines and expenditures begin to outpace available revenue, PDS recognized the need to adjust its funding strategy to maintain service levels. PDS plans to request General Fund support to begin transitioning the salaries of dependency positions, while continuing to utilize Title IV-E funds to offset the increased rates for dependency contract attorneys. This approach will preserve the progress achieved in caseload management, staffing stability, and the overall quality of legal representation, ensuring that dependency clients continue to receive effective and timely legal services.
Pinal	Pinal County Superior Court began utilizing funds in November 2020. Pinal County developed a team concept where a Judicial Officer is assigned a Dependency only caseload. The team consists of the Dependency Judicial Officer and attorneys whose caseload primarily focuses on Dependency cases. This team concept brings together the Judicial Officers and attorneys to form quality representation to parents and children in the Dependency process. In addition, we have also added additional attorneys to the Dependency caseload and improved attorney-client ratios.
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County will acquire a new audio/visual recording system with integrated digital evidence presentation for installation in Courtroom 5, where Title IV-E proceedings are held. This investment will strengthen legal representation for children and parents by supporting the Court in meeting mandated timeframes. The system's ability to record remote participants will expand opportunities for virtual appearances, increasing efficiency and ensuring compliance with required deadlines. Additionally, this flexibility will enhance the Court's capacity to recruit attorneys from outside the local area, thereby improving attorney client ratios and enabling current attorneys to more effectively manage their dependency Caseloads.
Yavapai	We will continue funding the positions as detailed which allows the funding to be used on both sides of the County. It is the continuing goal to improve services and reduce the filings.
Yuma	The Family Support Specialist will continue assisting the families in need. We will also use some of the reimbursed monies to pay attorney fees. Yuma County will reach out to the contract attorneys to encourage various trainings. We will also continue to explore other options to use the funds to benefit Yuma County and the children in need.