

Maricopa Association of Governments  
Social Services Block Grant  
**Developmental Disabilities Fact Sheet**  
November 3, 2011

1. **Purpose Statement**

Provide services to persons experiencing developmental disabilities so that they may live as independently as possible.

2. **Demographics**

There continues to be difficulty in reporting comparison figures as the American Community Survey and the US Census report on disabilities do not offer data that is consistent with the manner in which the State of Arizona defines a developmental disability. This results in an inability to report on those persons who are living in the geographic area, but served by the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD). It should be noted that of the 21,253 people described below 361 have received services through the locally planned SSBG funding and 2,372 people were impacted by this funding. Some of these people include the job coaches and the family members. The overall growth of the Division in District One during this reporting period was 2,153 clients. Of those persons who lost their funding last year, more than 60 percent have also lost their jobs. Of the remaining who are still employed, their families or employers have taken over the task of being their job coaches. A very small percentage of those who lost their funding for employment services have become independently employed.

The statistics below are current as of October 6, 2011.

**a. Age**

Birth to three years of age	2,433
3.1 years to 18 years of age	11,133
18.1 years to 50 years of age	6,490
50.1 years to 89 years of age	1,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**b. Race/Ethnicity**

Alaska/American Indian	675
Asian/Pacific Island	447
Black or African American	1,481
Hispanic or Latino	6,336
White not Hispanic	11,421
Other	641
Unknown	252
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**c. Gender**

Male	13,412
Female	7,841
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**d. Income**

Eligible for Arizona Long-Term Care	16,124
Not eligible for Arizona Long-Term Care	5,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**e. Employment**

Eligible for Employment	4,236
Employed	1,097
Wait Listed	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,695</b>

The number of total persons eligible for employment increased as did the total number of persons in employment. The percentage of increase is consistent with the overall growth of the district.

**f. Assistance Levels**

See Income

**g. Disability Rates**

Cognitive Disability	8,581
At Risk	6,530
Autism	3,373
Cerebral Palsy	1,890
Epilepsy	826
Other	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**h. Family Status**

Living at Home/On Own	18,922
Group Quarters	2,324
Homeless	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,253</b>

**3. Gaps and Impact**

**a. Number of people estimated to be eligible for services**

There are 21,253 people currently enrolled and eligible for services.

**Wait List Data**

Employment	362
Overall Services	1,857
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,219</b>

**b. Global Impact of Services**

Persons who experience developmental disabilities have a much higher rate of unemployment. The State unemployment rate as of August 2011, was 9.3 percent according to the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and the unemployment rate for persons who experience developmental disabilities is 71.9 percent. The percentage of people unemployed with a developmental disability and the salary for this population are the same as last year. This data is only

gathered every four to five years and was not updated this year. When persons with developmental disabilities are employed, their salaries are much lower than the average for persons without developmental disabilities. Persons receiving services are as follows:

<b>Developmental Disabilities</b>	<b>% Employed</b>	<b>Average Annual Wage</b>
Cognitive Disability	28.9%	\$7,236
Epilepsy	33.4%	\$12,987
Cerebral Palsy	21.5%	\$23,889
Autism	16.2%	\$9,062

The impact of this funding is that persons who experience developmental disabilities receive assistance that enables them to work, live more independently, and keep their home intact. In addition, the funding provided means that the person served is less dependent on the community to provide for their care.

For example, according to the Division, the average employed person with developmental disabilities pays an average of \$1,292.00 in taxes, and no longer needs or qualifies for \$49,608 in state and local services. Also, this average employed person typically receives only half of their Social Security income benefits at a savings of \$2,432. This equates to a per person savings of \$53,247.00 for every year that that person works and is able to be supported in their job. That means that for every SSBG dollar that is provided to the Division of Developmental Disabilities, there is a savings of \$32.71 to the tax payers.

#### 4. **DES Updates**

DES continues to have a moratorium on being able to serve any consumers who are unable to qualify for services through Arizona Long-Term Care. Many of those individuals who previously received support services to help them keep their jobs have either experienced reduced hours or have lost their jobs. These individuals now are unable to be productive citizens of our community. This not only has a major impact on the lives of the persons served, but affects the employer and the community as a whole. These individuals are no longer paying taxes which add to the deficit. The Division cannot assist them in finding new employment. A few now qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation services, however, those services cannot supply the long-term support that is needed. These individuals do not meet the requirements for Arizona Long-Term Care and probably will not do so until they are much older (30 to 40 years from now). There is no support for these individuals and although there is a wait list for those that would need to be placed should funding became available, for some, it will be too late and their homes will be gone.

The lack of other community resources also affects the person served. Previously some of the persons served would go to a local senior center but now it is closed. They would be able to get food boxes, but now the food bank has less to give out. They were able to use family friends or family members to transport them, but now high gas prices has forced volunteer drivers to reduce the number of miles they are willing to drive. The numbers who have actually become homeless are small, but there are some now in shelters and/or on the street. It is noted that many higher functioning individuals are also ones who have co-occurring diagnosis of a developmental

disability and a psychiatric diagnosis. These individuals are among the ones who now are homeless.

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