

Maricopa Association of Governments
Social Services Block Grant
Developmental Disabilities Fact Sheet
Updated October 5, 2009

1. Purpose Statement

Provide assistance so people with developmental disabilities may live as independently as possible.

2. Demographics

The American Community Survey and the US Census report on disabilities but do not offer data the way the State of Arizona defines developmental disabilities. As a result, data for persons with developmental disabilities not receiving services already from the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division for Developmental Disabilities is not available. These data were reported by DES for July 2009. Of the 18,793 people described below, 330 of them receive services directly funded by locally planned SSBG.

a. Age

Birth to three years of age	2,358
3.1 years to 18 years of age	9,535
18.1 years to 50 years of age	5,438
50.1 years to 89 years of age	1,462
Total	18,793

b. Race/ethnicity

Alaska/American Indian	487
Asian/Pacific Island	399
Black or African American	1,357
Hispanic or Latino	5,646
White not Hispanic	10,290
Other	431
Unknown	183
Total	18,793

c. Gender

Male	11,839
Female	6,954
Total	18,793

d. Income

Eligible for Title XIX	13,906
Not Eligible for Title XIX	4,887
Total	18,793

e. Employment

Eligible for Employment	2,772
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Employed	1,013
Wait listed	185
Total	3,970

f. Assistance levels: See Income

g. Disability rates

Cognitive Disability	7,652
Autism	2,819
Cerebral Palsy	1,691
Epilepsy	751
Other	5,880
Total	18,793

h. Family status

Living at home or on their own	17,073
Group quarters	1,720
Homeless	121 (per HMIS)
Total	18,914

3. Gaps and Impact

a. Wait list data

Employment	185	increase of 44 people
Overall services	4,684	increase of 203 people
Total	4,869	increase of 247 people

b. Number of people estimated to be eligible for services

18,793 are currently enrolled and eligible for services.

c. Global impact of services

People with developmental disabilities have much higher rates of unemployment. The state's unemployment rate as of August 1, 2009 was 9.1 percent. According to the DES Division for Developmental Disabilities, the unemployment rate for persons with developmental disabilities is 78 percent. When persons with developmental disabilities are employed, their salary tends to be much lower than the average for persons without developmental disabilities.

The impact of this funding is that persons with developmental disabilities receive assistance that enables them to work, live as independently as possible and depend less on the community to provide for their care.

For example, according to the Division, the average employed person with developmental disabilities pays \$1,207 in taxes, no longer needs or qualifies for \$49,608 in state and local services, and receives only half of the Social Security Income benefit at

\$2,432. This saves tax payers \$53,247 per person every year. This computes to a savings of \$32.71 for every SSBG dollar allocated to this target group.

4. DES Updates

August 13, 2009: Ms. Sherer said they do not have a budget at this time and do not know the impact it will have on the division next year. However, she said the number of individuals in the state-funded program grew by 1,300 over the previous year. Additionally, because no new funds will be available, those individuals will no longer receive services. Ms. Sherer said they had been able to supplement people living on their own with rent, employment, and transportation subsidies through special funding that no longer exist. However, they now have individuals who cannot pay their rent or live independently. She said it is too early to project how many are affected and the wait list for Section 8 is very long.

Ms. Sherer said cuts were primary made in staffing, leading to large increases in case loads. She reported what used to be an average of 47 cases can now be upwards to 90 or more. She said the number is higher in cases regarding early intervention due to the freeze on positions. She said cuts were avoided in service areas therefore most cuts fell on staffing. As such, they will continue to provide the services they have in place as much as possible but without the ability to provide service to new clients.