

# Department of Child Safety

Mike Faust, Director

May 13, 2021



# Ways to achieve permanency

- Reunification with the birth parents
- Adoption by relative, foster parent, non-relative (certified to adopt by courts).
- Title 8 Guardianship



# Adoption and Title 8 Guardianship

- **Adoption:**

- Parental rights are terminated/relinquished
- Adoptive Parents make all the legal and social decisions for a child
- No further court involvement
- A new birth certificate issued to the adoptive parent
- Children qualify, based on their needs, for adoption subsidy which is a federally funded program.
- Adopted children who qualify for adoption subsidy will receive AHCCCS coverage until age 18, high school diploma, GED or up to age 22 whichever occurs first.
- Annual review of adoption subsidy case

- **Guardianship:**

- Title 8 guardianship is considered to be permanent
- It is intended to last until the child is 18 years of age.
- Emotional relationship should last a lifetime
- Permanent guardianship can only be undone by a court action
- Guardians have to reapply for AHCCCS medical coverage yearly
- A first year paper review of the case through the court after guardianship is granted.
- Annual review of Guardianship subsidy case



# DCS Subsidy Overview

- There are approximately 34,916 children/23,529 families in the Adoption Subsidy Program.
  - An average of 150-200 new children are adopted each month
- There are approximately 2890 children/1746 families in the Guardianship Subsidy Program.
  - An average of 50 new children have permanency through Guardianship each month.
- There are 21 Subsidy Specialists and two Behavioral Health Support positions that provide case management and support to the families.

*\*\*data is as of February 2021 from the Subsidy End of Month Reports and the MOOR report*



# DCS Subsidy Services and Supports

- The Department of Child Safety (DCS) provides Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy to families in an effort to support permanency for children in care.
- Adoption Subsidy provides:
  - Medical coverage through AHCCCS/MEDICAID
  - A monthly maintenance subsidy
    - Amount is determined based on needs of the child
  - Onetime reimbursement of non-recurring adoption expenses
  - Special services subsidy as needed
    - This includes case management
    - Reimbursement of respite services
    - Out of home services/supports
  - Case management support to assist in connecting to community supports
- Guardianship Subsidy provides:
  - Medical coverage through AHCCCS (first year caregiver must re-enroll each year)
  - A monthly maintenance subsidy that must be updated each year
  - Case management support to assist in to connecting community supports



# DCS Subsidy Services and Supports

In 2019, the Department created two Behavioral Health Support Positions to assist families who were having post permanency challenges. These positions offer statewide support.

- Attend Child and Family Team meetings providing advocacy to the family.
- Locate and work with family to identify community supports in their area
- Partner with behavioral health services to ensure that the child and families behavioral health needs are being met.

The Department is in the process of developing a Scope of Work/Contract for Post-Permanency Subsidy Services. The goal is to engage adoption/guardianship families in services through the Positive Parenting Program system, also known as Triple P.

- Services will be provided for approximately 90-120 days with the following goals:
  - Promote the independence and health of families through enhancing the families knowledge, skills, confidence and self-sufficiency
  - Promote the development of non-violent, protective and nurturing environments for children;
  - Promote the development, growth, health, and social competence of young children;
  - Reduce the incidence of child maltreatment and behavioral/emotional problems in childhood and adolescence;



# Any Questions?

- To learn more about foster care or watch an online orientation go to: <https://dcs.az.gov>
- Check out Children's Heart Gallery for children legally free for adoption at:  
<https://www.childrensheartgallery.org/>
- For more information you can reach the Warmline at 1-877-543-7633 option 3 or you can email FosterAdoption@azdcs.gov

