



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988

ARIZONA IS AN OUTLIER

TANF Cash Assistance

- Arizona has the 9th lowest TANF cash assistance benefit level - \$278 per month maximum for a family of 3 compared to the national average of \$445 per month maximum.
- Effective 7-1-16, Arizona will have the lowest lifetime limit for TANF cash assistance - 12 months. 30 states continue to use the federal 60-month limit; 13 states use 24 months or less, with the lowest (other than Arizona) being 21 months.
- In 1994/95, more than half of Arizona families in poverty who had minor children received TANF cash assistance; by 2013 fewer than 1 out of every 9 families were receiving TANF cash assistance. Nationally, TANF Cash assistance reaches 1 out of every 4 families.

Early Education

- Arizona has the 3rd lowest participation in preschool of any state - 67% of Arizona's preschool-aged children do not participate.
- Due to an enrollment freeze beginning in 2009 and limited enrollment since then, the number of children in low-income working families benefitting from child care assistance dropped from 29,000 in February 2009 to 11,000 in May 2015.
- Arizona and Kansas are the only states still basing child care assistance rates on market rates in the year 2000.
- Arizona's reimbursement rate for child care centers for 4-year olds is 42% below the 75th percentile of the 2012 market rate. Arizona reimburses at \$515 while the 75th percentile is \$888. Only Michigan and Missouri have bigger gaps.

K-12 Education

- Arizona's K-12 spending per student is two-thirds of the national average. In 2013, Arizona schools spent \$7,208 per student, compared to the national average of \$10,700.
- Between FY 08 and FY 15, Arizona's K-12 per student spending (inflation adjusted) was cut by 17.5% - the third highest in the nation. The dollar reduction was \$663 per student, the 10th highest in the nation. Of the 30 states that cut spending, the average cut was \$460 (9.8%).

Health Care

- Arizona is the only state that does not have a Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) - known as KidsCare in Arizona. Enrollment in KidsCare ceased January 1, 2010.

Unemployment Insurance

- Arizona's maximum weekly payment of \$240 is the national's 3rd lowest. The national average is a maximum of \$424 per week.