

Foster Care Resources – Mesa, Arizona

Arizona Family Resources

Arizona-wide resources specific to Foster Care.

<http://azfamilyresources.org/>

Foster Care Training and Licensing

A New Leaf

868 E. University

Mesa, AZ 85203

(480) 969 4024

info@turnanewleaf.org

www.turnanewleaf.org

<http://www.turnanewleaf.org/services/foster-care.html>

The foster care program provides services to families looking to become foster parents, such as foster care and therapeutic foster care training. The children in foster care need loving, safe and secure homes. A New Leaf has facilitated many adoptions to loving foster parents.

A Place To Call Home

1830 S Alma School Rd #122,

Mesa, AZ 85210

480-456-0549

<http://tocallhome.com/>

A foster care and adoption service agency contracted to provide foster care licensing/adoption certification, monitoring, training and placement coordination services for licensed and certified homes. Specializes in serving children and adults with medical needs and/or developmental disabilities who are in need of out-of-home care.

Arizona Department of Child Safety-Foster Care and Adoption

1-877-KIDS-NEEDU (1-877-543-7633)

<http://www.azkidsconsortium.com/agencies.htm>

Provides information regarding foster parenting and licensing, and can direct callers to the Warm Line for Foster Care complaints.

Child Crisis Arizona w/Arizona Adoption & Foster Care

817 N. Country Club

Mesa, AZ 85201

(480) 834-9424

info@childcrisisaz.org

www.childcrisisaz.org

<http://childcrisisaz.org/what-we-do/adoption-foster-care/>

Child Crisis Arizona's Foster Care & Adoption program is committed to helping children in out-of-home care by licensing and certifying parents for foster care and adoption. The range of services and support along with realistic training prepares families for the placement of children of all ages and backgrounds.

RISE Mesa

4554 E. Inverness Avenue

Mesa, Arizona 85206

1(866)-242-2714

risefs@riseservicesinc.org

<http://riseservicesinc.org/services/family-services/>

RISE provides foster Care training, preparation, and licensing as well as 24 hour support for and assistance during this process.

Family Support and Networking**Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents**

1702 E. Highland, Ste. 211

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Phone: 602-884-1801

<http://azafap.org/>

<http://azafap.org/events/>

The Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents is a non-profit, statewide organization that serves families who adopt children and provide foster and kinship care. Working in partnership with child welfare professionals and the community, the purpose is to support, educate, empower and provide a unified voice for Arizona's foster and adoptive families, with the goal of increasing the well-being and stability of Arizona's most vulnerable children. Some events/services may be offered in Mesa.

Arizonans for Children Inc.

East Valley Center -in the Desert Heritage Church

1020 N Horne

Mesa, Arizona 85203

(480)838-0085

<http://www.arizonansforchildren.org/>

Facilitate free services/opportunities and provide effective solutions to alleviate hardships and improve the fragile lives of the *abused*, *abandoned*, and *neglected* children in foster care. AFC provides abused, neglected and abandoned children with:

- Children's Visitation Center providing a safe and fun place for family visits. All appointments are set up through the Department of Child Safety.
- Tutor/Mentor Program, an adult mentor/tutor is assigned to work with a child in foster care for a minimum of 2 hours per week for one year to help improve educational and emotional outcomes.
- Justice League Program, a legal education program teaching foster youths ages 12 to 18 about their rights and responsibilities under law in the state of Arizona. Speakers include Juvenile Judges, Lawyers, DCS Young Adult Division and other motivational speakers who help encourage youths to make smart choices in preparing to age out of foster care.
- Financial Literacy – Aging Out Program, partnering with Take Charge America, we have developed an Aging Out Program with emphasis on learning life skills to successfully age out of foster care. These are practical, interesting and innovative classes.
- Dance Program, partnering with Ballet Arizona, Boys & Girls Clubs and ASU Sun Devils Stadium we provide weekly dance classes for youths in foster care, including classes in Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Hip Hop, Salsa, Meringue, Bachata and break dancing.
- Cooking Program, Sewing & Craft Classes; we offer weekly cooking, craft and sewing classes at valley-wide locations. Students will learn techniques in food preparation, safety and nutrition, hand and machine sewing as well as how to make creative and low-cost craft projects.
- Special Events such as monthly birthday parties, Days of Beauty, swimming, bowling, ice skating, roller skating parties, laser tag, Enchanted Island, Train Park Picnic, Holiday parties etc.

Child Crisis Arizona

817 N. Country Club

Mesa AZ 85201

(480) 834-9424

info@childcrisisaz.org

www.childcrisisaz.org

<http://childcrisisaz.org/what-we-do/education-and-tools-for-families/support-groups/>

Foster and Adoption Orientations, Relatives/Kinship Support Groups, Adoption Support Groups and Children's Adoption Support Groups and are offered.

Steele Foundation Connections Center

170 W. University Drive

Mesa, AZ 85211

480-834-9424

<http://steeleaz.org/>

Relatives As Parents (RAP) program: kinship/relatives-as-placements families, services offered include 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday drop-in RAP support group meetings, 4-week parenting class for kinship/relatives-as-placement caregivers and a 4-week class for children ages 8-12 in kinship care. Call for information and location.

Funding/Material Assistance

Arizona Friends of Foster Children

1645 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 450

Phoenix, AZ 85016

<http://www.affcf.org/>

The Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation promotes the self-esteem and enriches the lives of Arizona's children in foster care by funding social, athletic and educational activities and items that provide them with quality experiences while they live through very difficult circumstances. Assistance is provided for foster care youth and families throughout Arizona. Scholarships and funds to set up an apartment are available. Staff can accompany foster youth on a college campus visit and help them complete college applications. The **Keys to Success** program offers career exploration, job training, and job placement services.

Arizona Helping Hands

7850 E Gelding Dr Suite 500

Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

(480) 889-0604

Dreamcatcher@azhelpinghands.org<http://www.azhelpinghands.org/>

Provides both Licensed and Kinship Foster Families throughout Arizona with twin beds, cribs, clothing, diapers, holiday and birthday packages, school supplies and backpacks. Children must have a Notice to Provider from DCS. Service is by appointment only.

Helen's Hope Chest

126 E University Drive

Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone:(480) 969-5411

<https://www.mesaunitedway.org/helens-hope-chest-1><http://dianeandbrucehalefoundation.org/stories/helens/>

Helen's Hope Chest fulfills the dreams of thousands of foster children from throughout the East Valley and beyond by providing them with quality clothing, school supplies, books, gift cards, toys, games and more at no cost to their foster parents.

Transition Support for Foster Care Youth

Adelante Healthcare Navigators – Mesa

1705 W Main St

Mesa, AZ 85201

1(877) 809-5092

<http://www.adelantehealthcare.com>

Assists with **Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)** enrollment. YATI is health insurance for former Foster Youth. As of January 1, 2014, regardless of their income, most young adults who were in foster care at age 18 and are under age 26 are entitled to enroll in Arizona's Medicaid program known as AHCCCS. There is no open enrollment deadline. For young adults who were in foster care, access to health care services and preventative care is critical in their successful transition to adulthood. Having insurance means young adults can receive important and consistent health services even after they age-out from foster care on their 18th birthdays.

Health care tool kit for former foster youth (with YATI information):

<http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Health-Care-Toolkit.pdf>

Young Adult Program (YAP)

Arizona Department of Child Safety

(480) 247-1413

The state of Arizona provides services to assist teens in foster care to develop the skills and competencies necessary for a successful transition to adulthood. "Foster care" means any type of out-of-home placement, including relative/kinship care, licensed foster care, licensed group home/RTC, Independent Living Subsidy, etc. Services are available to youth in foster care who have been identified as "likely" to reach the age of 18 while in foster care, and to former foster youth living in Arizona, who are under 21 years of age, and were in a state or tribal foster care system at age 16 or older, or were adopted from a state foster care system at age 16 or older.

Higher Education Resources

Arizona State University Foster Youth Web Portal

<https://students.asu.edu/foster-youth>

Resources and information for foster youth who are thinking about applying to ASU or have already applied.

- Admissions resources (planning high school courses, when a student cannot pay for SAT/ACT, timelines, and more) <https://students.asu.edu/foster-youth/admission>
- Paying for College resources (tuition waiver, ETV and more) <https://students.asu.edu/foster-youth/paying>
- Scholarship Resources (ASU scholarships, Casey Family Scholarships, Foster Parent Scholarships and more) <https://students.asu.edu/arizona-foster-youth-programs#scholarships>
- School Counselor resources (how and when to apply, financial aid, major and degree options) <https://students.asu.edu/counselors>

Bridging Success <https://students.asu.edu/foster-youth/bridging-success>

This program connects foster youth to ASU and supports them until they graduate.

- Staff will help foster youth complete a college application, access resources for filling out the FAFSA, identify scholarships, and get answers to their questions about ASU.
- Contact bridgingsuccess@asu.edu or call Justine Cheung, Program Coordinator, at 602-496-0054.

Bridging Success Early Start <https://students.asu.edu/foster-youth/bridging-success/early-start>

This *free*, 6-day, residential, transition-to-college program connects entering foster youth to peers in the Bridging Success community and to ASU resources.

- Program dates: Sunday, August 7, 2016 - Friday, August 12, 2016. Also provides information about State-Specific Foster Child scholarships and Tuition Waiver programs.
- Registration opens on March 31, 2016.

Maricopa Community Colleges - Bridging Success Initiative

<https://asa.maricopa.edu/departments/office-of-student-affairs/initiatives/bridging-success-initiative>

- Provides access to tutoring, academic counseling, career planning, and any additional support needed by foster youth enrolled in Maricopa Community Colleges.
- Staff and faculty participate in Fostering Advocates training and commit to helping foster youth take the next step in their education and advocating for their success.

Foster Care 2 Success (FC2S)

<http://www.fc2success.org>

- Administers the Education Training Voucher (ETV) that provides foster youth with up to \$5K in tuition assistance for each year they are registered in college.
- Information about scholarships and grants for foster youth.
- Academic Success Program – provides foster youth in college with trained volunteer coaches to mentor them.

College Scholarships <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/foster.htm>

- Administers the Education Training Voucher (ETV) that provides foster youth with up to \$5K in tuition assistance for each year they are registered in college.
- Also provides information about State-Specific Foster Child scholarships and Tuition Waiver programs.

Inspirational Stories About Foster Youth in College

Meet Breanna: <https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2015/12/04/arizona-tuition-program-enables-foster-youth-to-earn-college-degree/>

Meet Luis: <http://avidcollegeready.org/college-career-readiness/2014/3/21/lets-not-abandon-foster-youth-in-college-readiness-dialogue.html>

Meet Aroe: <https://www.asufoundation.org/IMPACT-Magazine/ID/192/Bridging-Success>

ASU-MCCCD colleges launch first joint program for former foster youth:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2015/10/24/asu-mcccd-bridging-success-foster-tuition/72338742/#>

ASU Program Helps Former Foster Children Navigate University:

<http://kjzz.org/content/219285/asu-program-helps-former-foster-children-navigate-university>

General Community Resources

[Community Information and Referral](#)

[Maricopa County Parenting Services Directory](#)

[Child Crisis Arizona Resource Guide](#)

[Child Crisis Arizona Classes and Workshops](#)

[Mesa Public Schools - Parent University](#)