

Executive Order 2015-08

The Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (Superseding Executive Order 2014-06)

WHEREAS, strong families and youth are the future of Arizona and are of vital importance to our communities and economy; and

WHEREAS, the need to support families and youth, especially Arizona's most vulnerable (those most likely to enter into or are in the care of the State) is of the utmost urgency; and

WHEREAS, government has an important but limited role in providing benefits, goods and services, recognizing the need to collaborate with faith-based and private sector partners to solve community challenges; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's public, charitable, faith-based and business communities have successfully provided support and services to families and youth; and

WHEREAS, the state's future well-being is intrinsically linked to the cooperative and collaborative engagement of public, charitable, faith-based and business communities in providing opportunities to develop all families and youth to their fullest potential with a particular emphasis on those children that may end up in the care of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment is hereby created to align, leverage and coordinate faith-based and community resources to solve challenges faced by our most vulnerable children and families within the child welfare system and to provide additional support to strengthen families that are caring for both foster and adopted children.
 - a. Members of the Council shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of the Governor. To the extent practicable, the members of the Council shall reflect the geographic, cultural and religious diversity of the State.
 - b. The Governor shall appoint Co-Chairs of the Council.
 - c. The Office may accept monies from local, state or federal government sources, other public agencies, or non-governmental organizations, and monies donated or awarded by any other entities. The monies shall be expended solely for the purposes provided in this Executive Order Purpose and accounted for as provided by law.

2. The Council, in alliance with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family shall:
 - a. Prepare and update annually a strategic plan.
 - b. Conduct local outreach to develop a comprehensive and inclusive state service plan and coordinate with existing programs to prevent duplication of effort.
 - c. Develop partnerships between the state, faith-based organizations and community entities in order to ultimately decrease the number of children being placed in the child welfare system by facilitating and providing support for Prevention services, as well as supporting recruitment to increase the number of foster and adoptive families, and aiding in the support of existing foster and adoptive families.

- d. Bring attention to exemplar programs that provide innovative examples for effective family and youth programming.
 - e. Prepare an annual progress report for submission to the Governor by June 30 of each year.
3. This Executive Order shall supersede Executive Order 2014-06, and will integrate the family and youth-focused work of the Arizona Council on Faith and Community Partnerships.
 4. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family shall serve as the lead agency for administration of the Council as is deemed appropriate and necessary to fulfill the objectives of this Order. Additionally, all state agencies shall provide reasonable assistance to the Council as requested to ensure a fully coordinated state effort for promoting Arizona's families and youth.
 5. The Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment shall be reviewed no later than June 30, 2020, to determine appropriate action for its continuance, modification or termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



Janet D. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this Thirtieth day of July in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fortieth.

ATTEST:

Michelle Reagan

Secretary of State