



Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

2019 Legislative Session Wrap-up: Small Steps, Positive Direction

Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

is a statewide coalition of aunts, uncles, fictive kin and grandparents who stepped up to care for children who for a variety of reasons could no longer remain in their own home. We are the reason children are not in foster care, group homes, or other non-familial settings.

Our mission is to support, mobilize, educate, and advocate for better laws and policies to help us care for and raise strong, resilient children.



Have You Registered For The 2019 AZGA Statewide Summit Yet?

Early bird rate ends July 31
Registration closes Aug 27

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.azga.org

Summit takes place:

September 14th, 2019

9 am—3:30 pm

Salvation Army Kroc Community Center

1375 E Broadway, Phoenix AZ

Childcare Available ~ Lunch Provided



“Kinship placement should not be a financial hardship.”

It was a long legislative session but here are a few positive accomplishments that kinship families can look forward to in the final outcome of 2020 budget:



\$2.4 Million dollars were added to financially support kinship caregivers and eligibility changed for the “Kinship Stipend”. Now *ALL* unlicensed kinship families whose children are placed in care by DCS will receive the \$75 kinship stipend, regardless of family income. In addition, DCS will now process these payments automatically along with the clothing and personal allowance, effectively removing any additional burdensome application steps for caregivers. Expect this change to begin July 1, 2019.



Arizona universities and community colleges are now required to provide a “tuition waiver scholarship” to children who were in foster care, or were adopted from foster care when they were at least 14 years old. This year’s change in law lowered the qualifying age from 16 years to 14 years, making **MORE** kids eligible for the financial assistance.



Legislators ensured that KidsCare, the popular low-cost health insurance program for Arizona children in low-income families, will continue on. Arizona law-makers had a hard deadline this year in which they needed to commit a share of state dollars to match the federal funding Arizona receives for this program. They did, and consequently over 35,000 kids will continue to have coverage and others who are eligible can continue to sign up.



Child care assistance *finally* passed the AZ legislature. After a year-long delay, AZ legislators finally allowed specifically designated federal funds to be used so that Arizona low income families can have greater access to childcare opportunities. These new funds will completely eliminate the waiting list for DES childcare subsidies (for the first time in over ten years) and lower out-of-pocket childcare costs for families struggling to make ends meet.

More Information About Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors: www.azga.org