



Kathryn Ptak, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

To: All DCS Staff

From: Kathryn Ptak, Director

Re: Family-Based Transition Pilot

Date: August 1, 2026

Dear Department Staff:

The Department is launching the Family-Based Transition Pilot Program. The Family-Based Transition Pilot Program is an initiative to support the transition of children residing in congregate care into a family-like living arrangement located closer to their families.

DCS Statewide Placement Administration will identify children for participation in the pilot program. Foster Support agencies contracted with DCS will identify foster families to participate in the pilot program to ensure a successful match and placement stability. In addition to foster parent pre-service training, family-based transition foster parents will receive training to enhance their understanding of the impact of trauma on youth in foster care.

The initial phase of the pilot program will focus on moving children from congregate care settings in Maricopa County to family-like homes in Pima County, in the community where their cases began, so they can live close to their parents, services and supports.

Upon notification of the selected home by Placement Administration, the DCS Specialist will follow applicable policies and procedures in [Chapter 4: Out-of-Home Care](#), including [Chapter 4 Section 7 Caregiver Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care](#) to develop a Placement Transition Plan and coordinate the successful transition of the child to the foster home.

This administrative directive is effective immediately and is in effect until rescinded.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KATHRYN PTAK".

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Kathryn Ptak
Director