Description of Service
The focus of Family Reunification and Placement Stabilization services is to support and enhance the family unit during the process of reunifying children with their parents/caregivers or while stabilizing children in out-of-home living arrangements. There are two service levels:

- **Family Reunification**: Services for families with complex needs or intensive behavioral health challenges requiring therapeutic intervention to safely reunify a child/youth with his/her family once the Conditions for Return are met.

- **Placement Stabilization**: Services for a child/youth and/or out-of-home caregiver when either is in need of support to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the child/youth and out-of-home caregiver to prevent placement disruption. Services may also be provided to transition a child/youth from a more restrictive placement, such as from a behavioral health treatment facility to a foster or family home.

Services may be provided in the family’s home or the child’s current and/or transitional placement, through a Reunification/Placement Stabilization Team. The team consists of a Team Lead/Therapist and a Family Support Worker who visit the family according to the following service phase:

### Family Reunification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Team Lead/Therapist</th>
<th>Family Support Worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Reunification/Reunification (First 60-90 days)</td>
<td>1x per week</td>
<td>1x per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Reunification (Days 61 or 91–120)</td>
<td>If therapeutic need</td>
<td>1x per week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stabilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Team Lead/Therapist</th>
<th>Family Support Worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Stabilization (First 60-90 days)</td>
<td>2x per week</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance (Days 61 or 91–120)</td>
<td>1x per week</td>
<td>1x per week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aftercare services may be provided to families and out-of-home caregivers for three months. Aftercare services include:

- ongoing telephone or in person contact by a Peer Mentor or Family Support Worker one time per month to ensure the family has supports in place; and
- increased frequency of contact or therapeutic intervention by the Team Lead/Therapist and/or Family Support Worker, as applicable, to assist the family with any safety concerns or identified therapeutic needs.

Service Referral Process
The Provider accepts all referrals for service upon receipt of the written referral packet. To request services (in or out-of-region), submit a referral packet to the Regional Resource Unit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central &amp; Southwest Region</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ServiceReferrals@AZDCS.gov">ServiceReferrals@AZDCS.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pima Region</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PimaRegionCentralizedReferrals@AZDCS.gov">PimaRegionCentralizedReferrals@AZDCS.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Region</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SoutheastCentralizedReferrals@AZDCS.gov">SoutheastCentralizedReferrals@AZDCS.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NARServiceReferrals@AZDCS.gov">NARServiceReferrals@AZDCS.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Include the following documents in the Referral packet:

- PS06700 Request for Services with all required elements;
- PS06718 Family Reunification & Placement Stabilization Addendum with signatures;
- current non-confidential CSRA (no criminal history information);
- current case plan (if applicable);
- current court report (if applicable);
- TDM summary (if applicable); and
- any other supporting information.
Family Reunification and Placement Stabilization

Services benefit families in many ways:

- An accelerated visitation plan for Reunification services is created during the intake meeting with the family.
  - The plan should include extended and overnight visits with a target reunification date within 30-45 days of service initiation.
  - If the family is not ready to reunify at the end of 30-45 days, the provider is to discuss next steps with the DCS Specialist.
- Services may be provided in the family’s home or the child’s current living arrangement, which may include a relative/kin home, foster home, adoptive home, or higher-level behavioral health placement.
- Emergency flex funds (up to $300 per family) are available for the provider to use to assist and improve family functioning.
- Approval from the assigned DCS Program Supervisor is needed prior to using the funds.
- Funds can be authorized during aftercare services (if not all used while services were open).

Eligibility

Family Reunification: Parents/Caregivers whose children are in out-of-home care and are expected to be reunified with the family within 30 to 45 days of the referral.

Placement Stabilization: Out-of-home caregivers, including kinship caregivers, are eligible for Placement Stabilization services.

Service Need and Title XIX

- Not every family needs Family Reunification or Placement Stabilization services. Services are intended for families with complex needs or intensive behavioral health challenges.
- Services are intended for Non-Title XIX eligible children and families. However, services can be used if the child is eligible for Title XIX services, but services are denied by the RBHA.
- Before submitting a referral to the DCS Resource Unit, discuss the child/youth’s needs with the behavioral health provider.
- If services are denied, contact the CMDP Behavioral Health Unit.

Time Frames for Outreach, Assessment, and Services

- The provider will contact the family (via telephone) within 24 hours of receipt of the referral to schedule an intake meeting that occurs no less than 48 hours after the initial contact with the family. An Interim Plan will be developed outlining short-term objectives for the first 30 days of services.
- Once a family agrees to services, the Reunification/Placement Stabilization Team will have four, one-hour sessions with the family members to begin engaging the family and conduct a comprehensive assessment.
- Within five days of completing the assessment, a family service plan is developed describing service goals for each participant to eliminate any safety concerns.
- When the provider has assessed the family’s readiness for change, the frequency of contact and level of service for the family will be discussed at a Phase Modification Meeting, which requires participation by the family and DCS Specialist. During the meeting, the progress of the family will be discussed to determine:
  - if the family or out-of-home caregiver and child/youth have made sufficient progress to change the frequency of contact; and
  - if additional objectives need to be added to the family’s or out-of-home caregiver’s service plan to address the necessary behavioral changes.

Service Delivery

Services are provided based on the needs of the family identified through the comprehensive assessment and service planning process. Services may include, but are not limited to:

- structured parenting education and child/adolescent development stages;
- crisis intervention services and/or counseling;
- communication and negotiation skills, conflict resolution and anger management;
- domestic violence treatment and/or education;
- behavioral management and modification;
- problem solving skills and stress management;
- nutrition and home management;
- education on safe sleep for infants and infant care;
- linkage to community resources and/or systems of support;
- job readiness education and training, and peer mentoring;
- sexual abuse education/resources for the child victim and the protective parent; and/or
- adoption and guardianship/relative preservation.

Service Closure and Aftercare

- The provider will hold a closure meeting with the family 14 days prior to service closure, and will complete the following with the family:
  - discuss the progress and achievements that have been made; explore areas of enhanced and continued diminished caregiver protective capacities, and provide recommendations; and
  - review the option of aftercare services and create an aftercare plan to assist the family with connecting to community resources, if applicable.
- The DCS Specialist will be invited to attend the closure meeting with the family. If the DCS Specialist is unable to attend, a discussion about the status of the family should take place between the provider and DCS Specialist.
- Based on the progress of the family, approval for closure will be recommended with the option of aftercare services.
- A final home visit will occur seven days prior to closure to monitor and document the final progress of the family and observations of the children.