

# PROGRAM FACT SHEET

## Foster Care Review Board

### Services:

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) is responsible for conducting citizen reviews of children who have been placed in out-of-home care. To carry out FCRB's responsibilities, volunteer review boards located throughout the State conduct reviews of children in out-of-home care and make recommendations to the juvenile court, the Department of Economic Security (DES), and other interested parties. FCRB local boards are required to conduct these reviews at least once every 6 months and submit findings and recommendations to the juvenile court. As of June 2005, FCRB's caseload included 5,263 cases representing 9,054 children. Additionally, in 2004, FCRB began to prepare a report summarizing its identification of service gaps in the child welfare system and provides the report to officials from DES, the Governor's Office, and other stakeholders.

### Board membership and staffing:

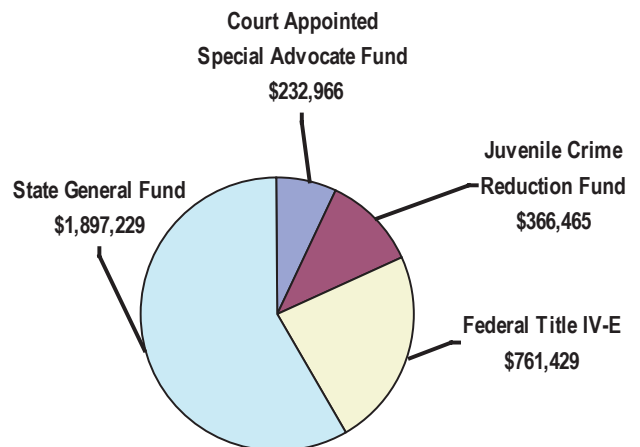
FCRB is governed by a State Board composed of 7 at-large member positions appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court and 35 volunteer representatives from the local boards as of June 2005. There are approximately 417 FCRB volunteers who serve on 94 local boards located throughout the State. FCRB had 38 authorized FTEs, which included 4 vacant positions, as of May 2005.

### Facilities and equipment:

FCRB performs its administrative duties in Phoenix and Tucson in offices that it leases from the Arizona Department of Administration. Its equipment includes typical office equipment, such as furniture and computer equipment. FCRB also has four vehicles to help its program specialists facilitate review meetings held around the State.

### Program revenue:

**\$3.3 million (fiscal year 2005 actual)**



## Mission:

“The Foster Care Review Board is established by Arizona statute to review at least every 6 months the case of each child in foster care. The purposes of these reviews are to determine and advise the juvenile court of the adequacy of efforts and progress toward placement of the child in a permanent home; to encourage and facilitate the return of each dependent child to his/her family whenever possible; to promote and encourage stability in the child’s placement; and to assist in informing parents and others of their rights and responsibilities regarding a dependent child in foster care.”

## Program goals:

1. To ensure that each child has a plan for permanent placement.
2. To establish, maintain, and train sufficient volunteers to perform high-quality case reviews.
3. To ensure that appropriate recommendations for foster care system needs are submitted to the Supreme Court, Legislature, and Governor.<sup>1</sup>

## Adequacy of goals and performance measures:

FCRB has established appropriate performance measures related to its reviews of children in out-of-home care and volunteer training. For example, FCRB has established measures focusing on the percentage of volunteers who meet the minimum training requirements and the percentage of children who received reviews during the fiscal year. However, FCRB has not established performance measures related to the timeliness of its reports to the juvenile courts in accordance with the timeliness requirements set forth in A.R.S. §8-515.03. In addition, although it has input, output, quality, and outcome measures, it has not established any performance measures related to efficiency. Therefore, FCRB should establish a performance measure that tracks the percentage of reports that were sent to the juvenile court within the required 30-day period. FCRB may also wish to consider establishing a goal related to the service gap report it began producing in 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to a legislative change to A.R.S. §8-515.04 in fiscal year 2003, FCRB is no longer required to submit recommendations. FCRB has not included this goal in its proposed fiscal year 2006 goals.

Source: Auditor General staff compilation of information obtained from Arizona Revised Statutes; vacancy reports and performance measures information provided by FCRB; and other information provided by FCRB, including a child/case activity report as of June 20, 2005.