



March 26, 2018

Ms. Debra K. Davenport  
Office of the Auditor General  
2910 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 410  
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dear Ms. Davenport:

The Arizona Department of Child Safety (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide this response to the Auditor General's special report of the Arizona Department of Child Safety—Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (Families in Recovery Succeeding Together). Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (AFF) is a critical program that provides families the opportunity to overcome substance abuse in order to achieve the outcomes of family reunification and self-sufficiency.

The Auditor General's report has been reviewed. The Department agrees with the two identified findings that:

- the design of the AFF program incorporates best practices for substance abuse treatment and child welfare; and
- the Department has implemented AFF program oversight.

The response to the recommendation made in the Auditor General's report is enclosed. The Department appreciates the collaborative effort of the Auditor General's staff throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Gregory McKay  
Director

Enclosure: DCS Recommendation Response

### DCS Recommendation Response

**Recommendation 2.1** *The Department should carry out its plans to conduct periodic reviews, on a sample basis, of documentation supporting invoiced services to ensure these services are supported.*

**Department Response:** The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

**Response explanation:** The Department agrees with the Auditor General that it should continue its plans to conduct periodic reviews of invoices and the underlying documentation. As referenced in the Auditor General's report, the Department has begun planning for contract compliance staff to periodically perform this review on a sample basis. The Department expects to implement the review process by September 7, 2018.