



# NEWS RELEASE

## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Speaker of the House Andy Tobin, R- Prescott (Dist. 1)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE PRIORITIZED IN GENERAL FUND**

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (April. 8, 2014) – While legislators and the Governor look forward to a comprehensive plan to fix Child Protective Services that is due in May, the state's 2015 General Fund budget increases funding to CPS by nearly \$60 million.

This \$60 million increase follows a combined federal and state increase of \$130 million to the Division of Children, Youth & Families, which comprises CPS functions primarily, over fiscal years 2013 and 2014 – the DCYF budget was \$550 million in 2012 and rose to \$680 million in 2014.

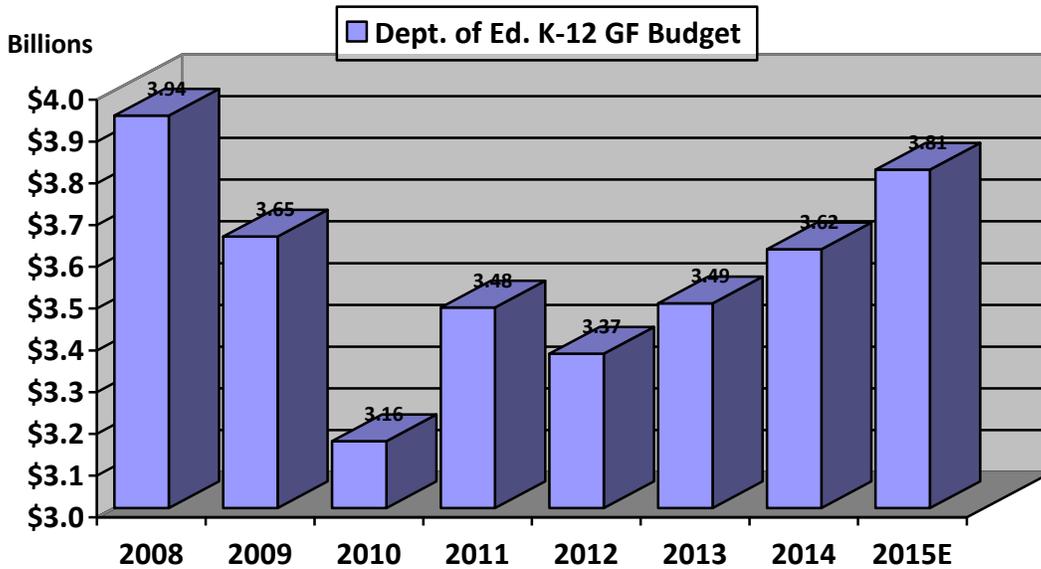
“To truly transform child protective services, the funding has to be there, but a plan to fix the problem also has to be there,” said Speaker Tobin.

For fiscal year 2015 the General Fund budget funds an additional 242 child safety staff and 20 investigators for the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, and directs money to areas that will reform the agency from the ground up and help to keep families together:

- \$20 million to create a standalone agency for Child Protective Services
- \$15 million for additional child safety staff
- \$6 million for adoption services
- \$6 million for children support to families with in-home and out-of-home services
- \$5 million for automation and computer upgrades
- \$3 million for Intensive Family Service that provides intensive services to families whose children are at imminent risk for out-of-home placement
- \$2 million for additional staffing for the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, which reviews cases where criminal conduct has been alleged

### **EDUCATION**

In fiscal years 2013 and 2014 the General Fund budget restored more than \$200 million to education. For fiscal year 2015 the budget increases education funding by \$189 million, which excludes a 2014 supplemental of \$47 million. This puts the education portion of the budget only \$130 million lower than its 2008 peak of \$3.9 billion - the figures below do not include funding for capital improvements and all-day kindergarten.



To continue improving workforce development efforts, the 2015 budget increases funding by \$3 million for Joint Technical Education Districts (JTED), this program delivers technical education in partnership with business.

- Fund JTED \$1.5 million
- Rural JTEDs Soft Cap/Equip \$1.0 million
- JTED Performance Funding \$0.5 million

The budget also increases funding by \$3.5 million for the Cooperative Extension Program at the University of Arizona, adding 28 full-time employees.

### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The budget appropriates \$9 million for construction of a 90-bed veteran’s home in Yuma, \$3 million for Adult Protective Services and over \$1 million for autism programs, assisted living programs and homelessness grants.

Other highlights:

- Military Installation Fund to protect bases \$2.5 million
- Department of Public Safety \$3.3 million
- Counter terrorism ACTIC \$0.8 million
- Restore \$ to Highway User Revenue Fund \$30.0 million

Please note that estimates are based on JBLC documents posted at azleg.gov.

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