

Maricopa County Human Services Department Collaborative:

Strengthening Working Families Project

Supporting the Communities of Surprise and El Mirage

Through a highly collaborative approach within the Maricopa County Human Services Department, **The Strengthening Working Families Project** is designed to reduce barriers, such as balancing family obligations and access to reliable child care, that make it difficult for low-income and working parents to participate and succeed in education and training that support employment and career advancement. The Project intends to give parents a pathway to secure higher wage jobs by addressing the barriers to participating in and completing training, and in trying to find and acquire affordable, quality care for their children while attending skills training programs.

Head Start/Early Head Start: Head Start services include early care and education for eligible infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. These services are provided at classroom/center locations and in child care partnerships in the communities of Surprise and El Mirage and are offered from 3.5 hours to 10 hours per day and for up to 48 weeks per year. Head Start eligibility includes families experiencing poverty, homelessness, receiving public assistance and children in foster care. In this project, Head Start services would fill the child care need for eligible parents with young children (under age 5) engaged in employment education and training activities at no cost to parents.



Workforce Development- Arizona@Work:

Arizona@Work helps job seekers find, prepare for, and keep the right job. Workforce development provides career guidance and assessments that help job seekers identify training, education, and skills needed to improve their employment opportunities. In this collaborative project, Arizona @ Work seeks to assist parents with children under the age of 5 who are interested in participating in short-term job training program to enter a new career path or advance in their current careers. Parents that meet income eligibility for training through a Federally funded program will participate in training at no cost.



Community Action Program of Surprise: Community action programs provide a variety of assistance services to individuals and families experiencing economic challenges.

Services that can be provided are Utility and Rental Assistance, Housing Weatherization, Career Assistance and Referral. For this project, Community Action services will provide long-term case management and service coordination to program participants. Parents will have a single point of contact to help them navigate through services that aim to support their efforts to increase their self-sufficiency as they improve work skills and income. Community Action staff will support parents in understanding their personal finances, setting goals, and linking to other needed resources.



For more information, please contact:

Community Action of Surprise: 623.222.1600



Documents Required for Strengthening Working Families Program

Head Start | Early Head Start

- Proof of income for last 52 weeks for parents or caregiver of child
- Proof of Residency
- Child's Birth Certificate or other proof of age

Workforce Development | Arizona@Work Maricopa County

- Updated resume
- Copy of high school diploma or GED (not required though preferred)
- Veteran information including Branch of services, dates and discharge type copy of DD214 and VA disability letter **(If Applicable)**
- Employment history for past ten years to include company name, job title, wage, hrs/wk, start/end dates, reason for leaving and job description
- Proof of household income for last 6 months
- Proof of legal right to work
- Identification for applicant
- Social Security card

Community Action Program

- Social Security cards for everyone in the home
- Proof of Citizenship or Lawful Presence for Applicant
(ie. Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport, Resident Alien Card, DD214)
- Utility Bills (Southwest Gas and APS *-if applicable*)
- Proof of household income for last 30 days
- Proof of identity of applicant (i.e. Driver's License, Work or School ID, Birth Certificate can also be used)

If you have any questions or concerns about the documents that are required of you for any of these programs please contact the Surprise Resource Center at 623-222-1600