



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Clarence H. Carter, Director

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Foster Care Tool Kit now available for Arizona Foster Families** *Successful Public-Private Partnership to Benefit Arizona's Children*

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security and Magellan Health Services of Arizona announced today the availability of a new Foster Care Tool Kit, created to help guide and assist current and prospective foster families. Just in time for National Adoption Awareness Month, the tool kit is now available online on the [DES website](#), [Magellan website](#) or by calling 1-877-KIDS-NEEDU.

“Our foster families already go above and beyond to help Arizona’s children in foster care but they simply cannot do it all on their own,” said DES Director Clarence H. Carter. “The Foster Care Tool Kit is a one-stop guide connecting them to resources in the communities around them to make their job a little easier. We are thankful for our community partners, like Magellan Health Services of Arizona, for their continued assistance in serving our foster care community.”

DES and Magellan joined together to gather content for the tool kit based upon research, participation in orientation seminars and interviews with individuals who attended. They then designed and printed more than 2,400 hard copies for physical and online distribution.

“Many children in foster care have behavioral health needs,” said Magellan Deputy CEO Shawn Thiele. “We are glad to partner with DES in creating this resource for foster parents. At Magellan, we are dedicated to helping the foster care community, especially foster children by providing timely access to behavioral health services when needed.”

The tool kit includes information to help current and prospective foster parents connect with community resources like child care, health services, mental health services, clothing and more.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, please visit the [DES website](#) or call 1-877-KIDS-NEED-U (1-877-543-7633).

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### **About Magellan Health Services of Arizona**

Magellan Health Services of Arizona is funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services and AHCCCS to serve as the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for central Arizona, which includes all of Maricopa County and part of Pinal County. In this role, Magellan serves as a critical point of connection to the more than 80,000 individuals who have experienced life challenges as a result of mental illness and substance abuse. Magellan gives these individuals voice and choice to realize their desired outcomes and supports them with caring, unrivaled customer service that is sensitive to the diversity of our communities. For more information, visit [www.MagellanofAZ.com](http://www.MagellanofAZ.com) or call Magellan of Arizona at (800) 564-5465, TTY (800) 424-9831. Information is available in English and Spanish.