

News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

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Arizona recognized for third year in a row as “Best Performing” for Medicaid services for individuals with developmental disabilities
Ranked first by United Cerebral Palsy six times since 2006

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security announced today Arizona ranks as the nation’s “Best Performing” state when it comes to key outcomes for citizens with developmental disabilities for the third year in a row. The annual rankings were released in a report entitled [“The Case for Inclusion 2014,”](#) compiled by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) based on each state’s approach to promoting independence and productivity, ensuring quality and safety, keeping families together and reaching people in need.

“Serving individuals with developmental disabilities is a calling and the dedicated workers, families and caregivers who do this work day-in and day-out, deserve our highest recognition,” said Director Clarence H. Carter. “It is wonderful to see UCP recognize their achievements.”

According to the UCP report, Arizona’s success through the Department of Economic Security’s Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to promote the independence through home-based services for individuals living with developmental disabilities earned it the top spot overall.

Arizona was also recognized for its success encouraging families to care for their loved ones in a home-like-setting. More than 90 percent of Arizonans with developmental disabilities receiving services are served in a home-like setting.

“Individuals with developmental disabilities want and deserve a comfortable quality of life surrounded by their families and friends,” said Director Carter. “It is our duty to help these individuals to attain that goal.”

More information on the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities is available on the [DES website](#).

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