



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **United Cerebral Palsy ranks Arizona 1st helping people with disabilities**

PHOENIX – (April 28, 2010) A new report on Medicaid-funded, state-level services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities finds that Arizona ranks first in the nation.

The 2010 report by [United Cerebral Palsy](#) measures the performance of all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, on their efforts to create “a quality, meaningful and community inclusive life for those Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

The [Case for Inclusion](#) report found that, while “all states have room to improve,” four states – including Arizona – “have more than 95 percent of individuals served living in home-like settings.” And when all states are measured, it found that Arizona ranked first, up from second place in the organization’s 2009 report.

The report measured the performance of each state regarding the:

- Degree to which services are community-based
- Percentage of people in small homes versus larger homes
- Level of family support (such as people receiving Home- and Community-Based Services in the family home)
- Percent of people living in the family home
- Quality assurance programs
- Percent of individuals in competitive employment

“We did particularly well in family support, people living in their family home, percent of dollars spent in the community, number of small homes, participation in the National Core Indicators and the small percentage of people waiting for Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services,” said Barbara Brent, Assistant Director of the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The report measures performance in FY2008, the last year in which data for all 50 states were available. Therefore, it notes, it is actually measuring performance before “the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression” took its toll on all state budgets.

United Cerebral Palsy serves and advocates for more than 54 million Americans with Disabilities. It assists more than 176,000 individuals and their families with such services as job training and placement, physical therapy, individual and family support, early intervention, social and recreation programs, community living, and access to state-level services.

A full copy of their report can be found on the [UCP website](#).

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