The vast majority of low-income women (77%) rent rather than own a home. Furthermore, women are far more likely to be renters than any other demographic. Home ownership is an important economic asset for families - an opportunity often unavailable to low-income women.

Overview

The Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Foundation for Women have endeavored to catalogue the state-funded and/or state-implemented programs in Arizona that have the effect of supporting the economic self-sufficiency of low-income women. Our aim was to analyze both funding for those programs and their impact, as measured in economic terms as a return on investment.

In order to determine which programs to include in our analysis, we sought first to gain a deep understanding of the economic status of women in Arizona. We looked at variables in important categories: children (care and early education); education; workforce participation; and home ownership. These categories are reflected in this executive summary.

A state budget should reflect our values and opportunities. When faced with tough choices, what programs should we prioritize? What programs should we cut? We invite you to learn more about the impact of 8 years of funding cuts upon Arizona’s women and children, and what it means for Arizona’s future.

In nearly every program we analyzed, the Arizona budget deeply cut or eliminated funding for programs that impact the economic self-sufficiency of women. This report connects the poverty determinant to an Arizona policy or program. Like Arizona, many states enacted deep spending cuts as revenues declined sharply over the last few years. Many states have restored funding to pre-recession levels. In most cases, Arizona has not.

Now that the economy is recovering, further economic and job growth will require being smart about how Arizona’s tax dollars are allocated to maximize the economic return on our investment. As this report shows, supporting programs for women and their children, in many cases, does exactly that.

For the full report, please visit www.azfw.org.

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Thank you to the Grand Canyon Institute, research fellow Molly Castelazo, and our generous supporters for underwriting this report.

Let’s Reinvest in Arizona’s Women.

In our Economic Recovery, Women are Falling Behind.

Now that the economy is recovering, further economic and job growth will require being smart about how Arizona’s tax dollars are allocated to maximize the economic return on our investment. Like Arizona, many states enacted deep spending cuts as revenues declined sharply over the last few years. Many states have restored funding to pre-recession levels. In most cases, Arizona has not.

Long term studies of early childhood development participants have consistently found lasting, important benefits for participants, families, and society at large. And school readiness is a good predictor of long-term development.

Women are more likely than men to be singularly responsible for children. 76% of low-income single-parent households are headed by women. Poverty is dramatically higher among women with children than without. While children are earning the benefits of early childhood development, a mother can re-enter the workforce.

The poverty rate among women with less than a high school degree (35%) is six times higher than among women with a bachelor’s degree or higher (6%) and almost three times higher than among women with some college (including an associate’s degree).

While her children are receiving the benefits of early childhood development, a mother can re-enter the workforce.

For the full report, please visit www.azfw.org.
More than 1/2 million of Arizona’s women are poor.

Women are more likely to be out of the workforce.

Women are far more likely to be singularly responsible for children.

Women are more likely to work low-paying jobs.

59% of all individuals not in the labor force are women.

79% of single-parent families with incomes below the poverty level are headed by women.

Only 1 of 5 of the most common occupations for Arizona’s women provide economic self-sufficiency.

59% of all individuals not in the labor force are women.

79% of single-parent families with incomes below the poverty level are headed by women.

But we’ve cut proven investments that help women’s self-sufficiency and Arizona’s economy.

To build a stronger Arizona, we encourage you to invest in women and children.

Support research and programs that empower the economic self-sufficiency of Arizona’s women.

Please call 602.532.2800 or 520.622.8886 today!

A special thanks to Arizona Public Service for printing this Executive Summary!