The Problem

500,000
WOMEN IN POVERTY

More than 500,000 of Arizona’s women are poor.

POVERTY INCREASED
37%

Since 2007, the number of Arizonans living in poverty has increased by 37%.

In the last seven years, the enacted Arizona budget deeply cut or eliminated funding for programs that impact women and children. And, it’s only getting worse.

How This Affects Women and Families

59%

Women are more likely to be out of the workforce. 59% of all individuals not in the labor force are women.

79%

Women are far more likely to be single parents. 79% of single-parent families with incomes below the poverty level are headed by women.

Only 1 in 5

Women are more likely to work low-paying jobs. Only 1 in 5 of the most common occupations for Arizona’s women provide economic self-sufficiency.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard

How Much is Enough? Helping Arizona’s families become economically self-sufficient so they do not need government subsidies.

The amount of money families need to be economically self-sufficient varies substantially depending on family size and the geographic region of residence. For example, in Pima County:

31%

31% of female headed households require government assistance.

12%

12% of 2 parent families require government assistance.

One parent with two children — a preschooler and school-age child — needs $22.17 per hour to meet his or her family’s basic needs without government assistance.

Two parents with one preschooler and one school-age child each need to earn $12.77 per hour working full-time to meet their family’s basic needs without government assistance.

Annual wages needed, by county — one parent and one preschooler [map graphic shows the annual salaries]

ANNUAL
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE

- $42,106 - $42,214
- $38,688 - $40,417
- $34,680 - $36,628
- $31,604 - $33,457

A Call to Action

Thousands of Arizonan families are affected. Arizona faces critical policy decisions. Choices made by the women and families depend on. Child care subsidies, funding of the Affordable Care Act are critical investments in Arizona.
Report Highlights

Child Care

Monthly median cost of a licensed child care center is $820; monthly federal poverty income level for a single mother with one child is $1,319 (cost of unsubsidized childcare = 2/3 of monthly income)

Why this is critical:
Providing child care is the difference between being able to work vs needing government assistance for many mothers. Women in business provide diversity and increase customer satisfaction scores for companies.

Return on Investment:
$11.40 return for every $1 spent on childcare subsidies.

Education and Workforce Development

Arizona ranks the 3rd lowest state for women's participation in the workforce and had an annual growth rate of 1.4% in 2015 compared to the US growth rate of 2.5%.

Work Force Participation Rate Among Ages 25-54 in Arizona is lower versus in the U.S. as a whole.

Solutions: Pathways out of Poverty

Women are far more likely than men to be out of the workforce.

Education, from the very beginning, is a critical determinant of women's economic self-sufficiency.

Women are more likely than men to work low-paying jobs.

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

The vast majority of low-income women (76 percent) rent rather than own a home.

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“When women are insufficiently represented in the workplace, we lose out on fifty percent of the talent pool. In an environment where human capital makes all the difference between success and failure, this is a massive loss which countries and corporates can ill afford.”

_Cyrus Mistry, Chairman Tata Global Beverages_


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2 Source: Investing in Women’s Employment, International Finance Corporation