The Arizona Department of Health Services approves architectural plans for construction or modification to certain licensed healthcare institutions, making sure that hospitals and nursing homes are built to standards that keep people safe. Process improvements completed in the fall of 2016 have enabled the department to reduce the average time to complete approvals by more than 50%, which means applicants now can expect to receive plan approvals within 30 days, and providers can open their doors quicker to provide safe, effective care for Arizona citizens.