



Mesa United Way



# **HOMELESSNESS IN MESA: BACKGROUND, EXISTING RESOURCES & PROGRAMS, RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS**

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

**JUNE 29, 2017**

# PURPOSE

## 1. Discuss:

- Statistics and insights about homelessness in general, and in Mesa.
- Intervention tools and resources being implemented.

## 2. Next steps direction:

- Collaborate with local and regional non-profits to create a shared strategic plan for improving homeless services.
- Define better ways to measure results and outcomes in Mesa.
- Return to Council this fall with an update.



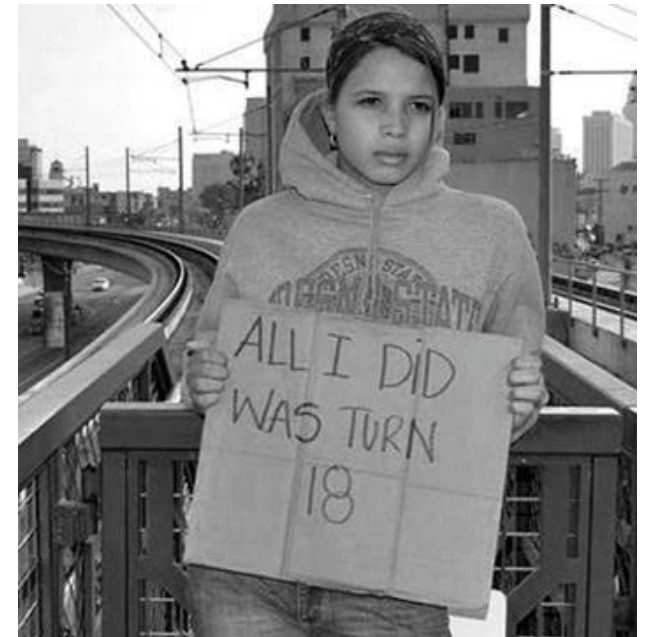
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# BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS

# COMMON REASONS

- **Situational homelessness**
  - Lost job, no steady income/job
  - Family breakup
  - Youth aging out of foster care
- **Episodic homelessness**
  - Mental health, substance abuses, domestic violence
- **Rental market crisis**
  - Non-sufficient supply; high rents; household incomes declining; evictions; bad credit



# DEFINITION

1. Chronic: a federal strategy; highest users of and cost to public services
2. Non-chronic: shorter-term homelessness
3. Families: less visible homeless
4. Youth: aged-out of foster care, runaways, teen parents
5. Unstable Housing: 'couch surfers'



# POPULATION

- April 2017 survey of providers. The total served was 1,601
  - 1,043 Single individuals
  - 188 Families
  - 55 Youth ages 18-24 years
  - 114 Veterans
  - 201 Victims of Domestic Violence
  - 72 Chronically Homeless
- Numbers likely include duplication among agencies
- May be inconsistencies on the definition of homelessness
- Responses are based on person's self declaration





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# EXISTING REOURCES, PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS



# FUNDING

- Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers
- HUD funding (CDBG, ESG, HOME, Continuum of Care (CoC))
- Human Service Funds (general funds, ABC funds)
- Other local resources, e.g. Mesa United Way, Downtown Mesa Association, Police Department, collaborations with non-profit partners.





# PARTNERS



# PARTNER RESOURCES

- 189 Emergency Shelter Beds
- 190 Permanent Supportive Housing Units (88 new units at La Mesita and Escobedo)
- 46 Transitional Housing Units
- 97 Rapid Rehousing Units
- 199 Outreach/Homeless Prevention
- 191 Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Since March 2017, issued 100 Section 8 Vouchers for chronically homeless individuals



# CITY PROGRAMS

## DOWNTOWN

Full-time navigator-- Contact with 126 unique individuals.

55 of them chose to accept assistance in some way.

16 are off the streets.

Bench removal— Morris Plaza

## VETERANS— Housing Our Heroes

191 Vouchers; 180 in use/assigned; 11 available.

Functional zero as a region



# SERVICE IMPACTS

- Police: Urban camping and trespass; helping establish sense of safety; criminal behavior response.
- Downtown: Want to feel welcome and safe.
- Libraries and Parks: Safe havens for homeless v. impacting sense of safety for others.
- Courts: Trespass cases rising; cost of processing; no-shows.
- Fire and Medical: Emergency responses.
- Light Rail: Direct access. Place to rest.





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**MORE TO DO:  
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS**

# NEXT STEPS

1. Convene partners agencies and stakeholders.
  - Clarify size, scope of homelessness in Mesa.
  - Identify gaps in services and housing.
2. Develop joint strategic plan, actions and outcome-driven measurements.
3. Check back in with Council this fall, and prior to start of 2018/19 federal funding cycle.







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# QUESTIONS?

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JUNE 15, 2017