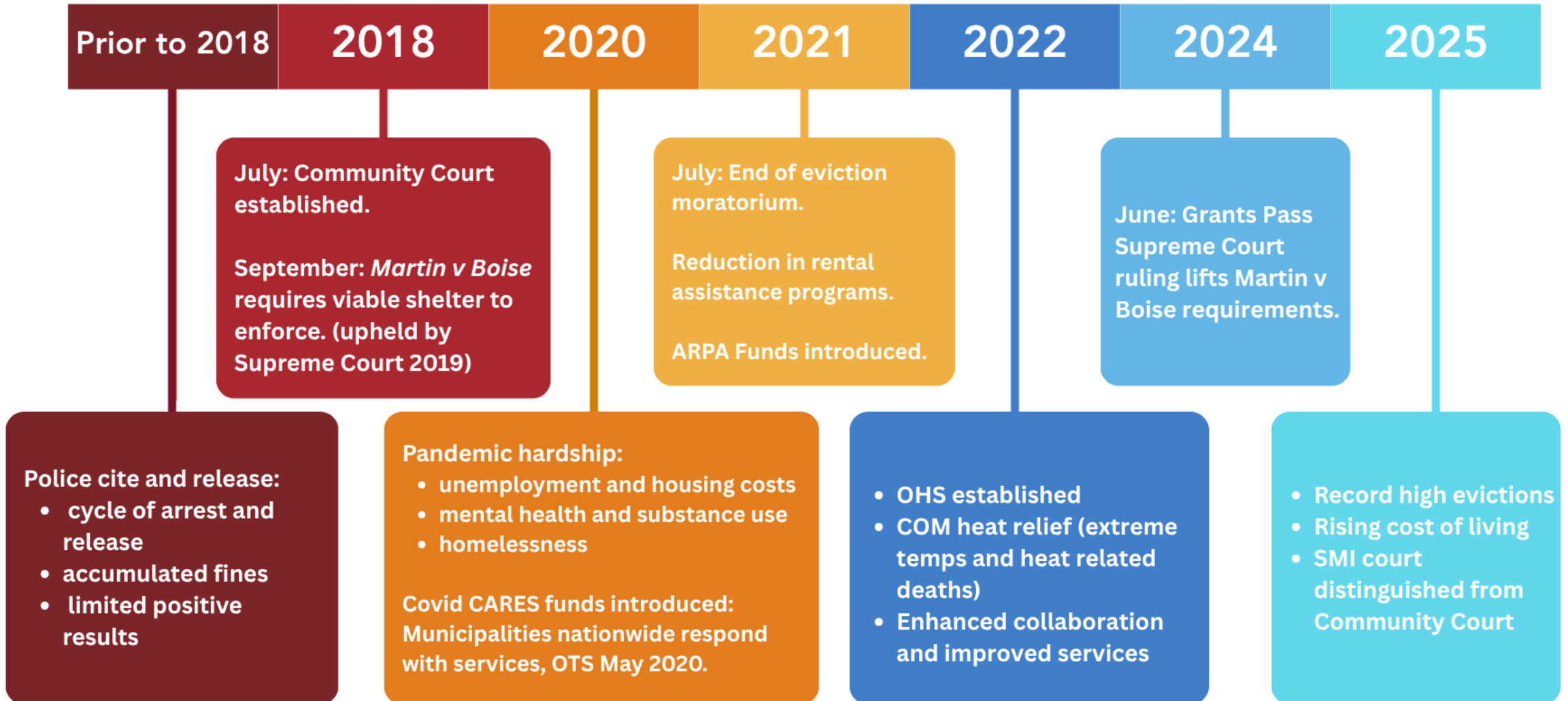


Addressing Homelessness for **Community Health and Safety**

November 6, 2025

Lindsey Balinkie, Community Services Deputy Director
Shawn Haught, Court Administrator
Danica Sanchez, Deputy Court Administrator
Jason Flam, Homeless Solutions Public Safety Liaison

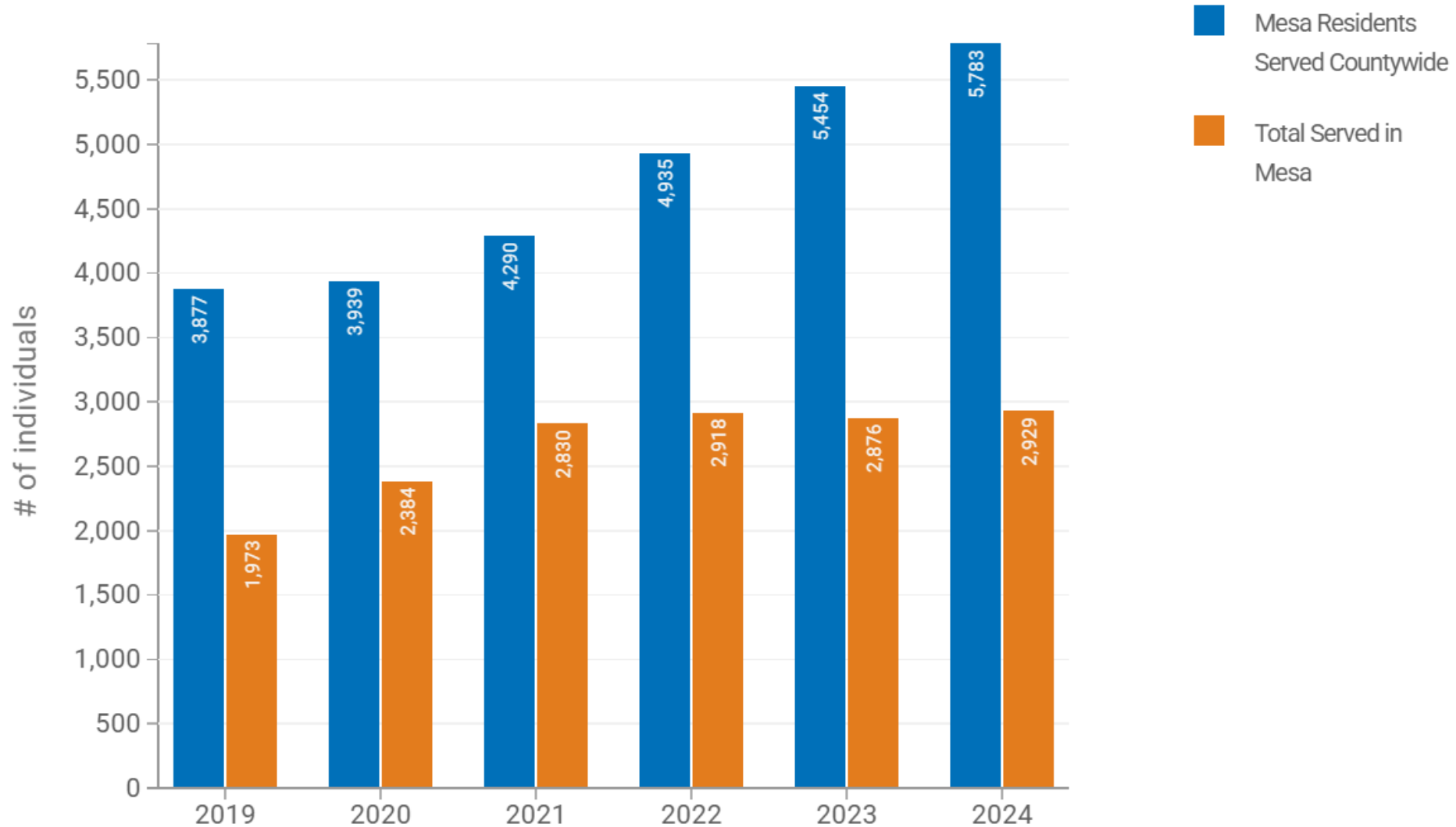
History of Homelessness in Mesa



Mesa Homelessness Trends by Year

Individuals Receiving Homeless Services

Unique number of clients Mesa residents at a Maricopa County service provider or any person at a Mesa-based provider.



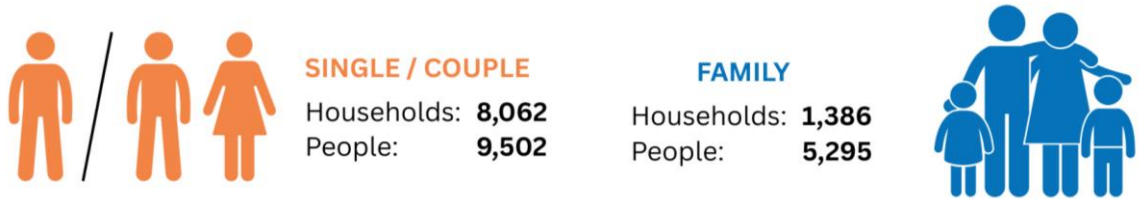
Top Takeaways from the Homelessness Trends Report, Q4 2024

- 1 There are more people entering homelessness than leaving homelessness. From January 2024 – December 2024, there were 19 new people experiencing homelessness for every 10 people finding housing.

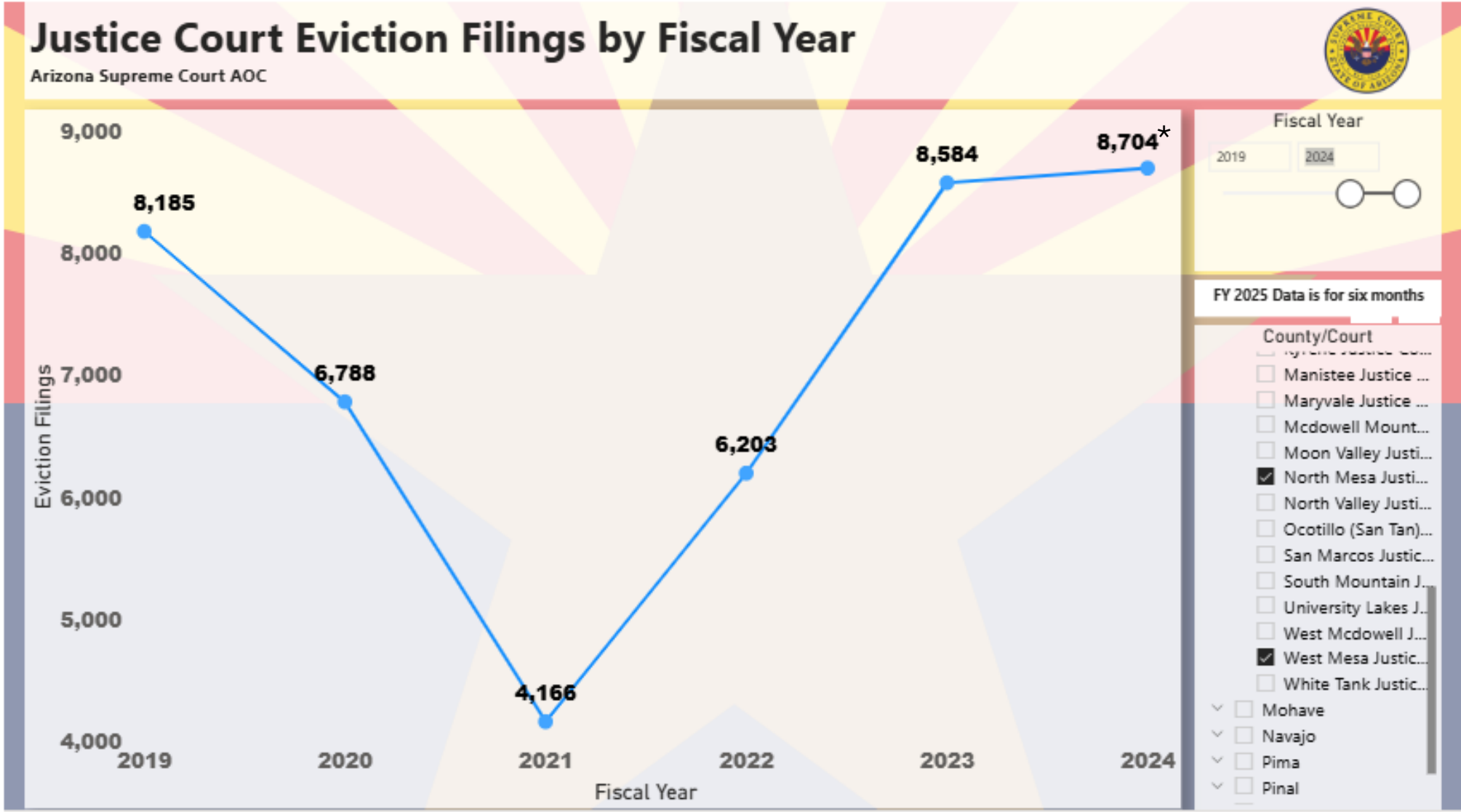


- 2 There is still a significant number of new people entering homelessness each month. In December, 905 households experienced homelessness for the first time, averaging 962 households over the last year.

- 3 Breakdown of people experiencing homelessness:



Other impacts: Mesa Evictions by Fiscal Year 2019-2024



*FY 24 data incomplete. Does not include May or June 2024 data.

Compounding issues



11% (57k) Mesa residents are living below the poverty line.



Rents have increasing by 46% from 2019-22.
Mobile home lot rental increase from \$250 to \$800+.



Wages have increased at a slower rate than housing costs by 21.5% from 2019-22.



Health Care costs rising



Reduction or loss of rental assistance and other support programs.



Not enough shelter to meet the need.
OTS waitlist: 14 families, up to 30 day wait.

Mesa's Housing Path



EMERGENCY

Immediate shelter.
Safety.
Housing Plan.



STABILIZATION

More rules and responsibilities.
Health and employment needs.



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Demonstrated success.
Bridge housing.
Continued support services.
Connected to housing vouchers.



RENTAL ASSISTANCE

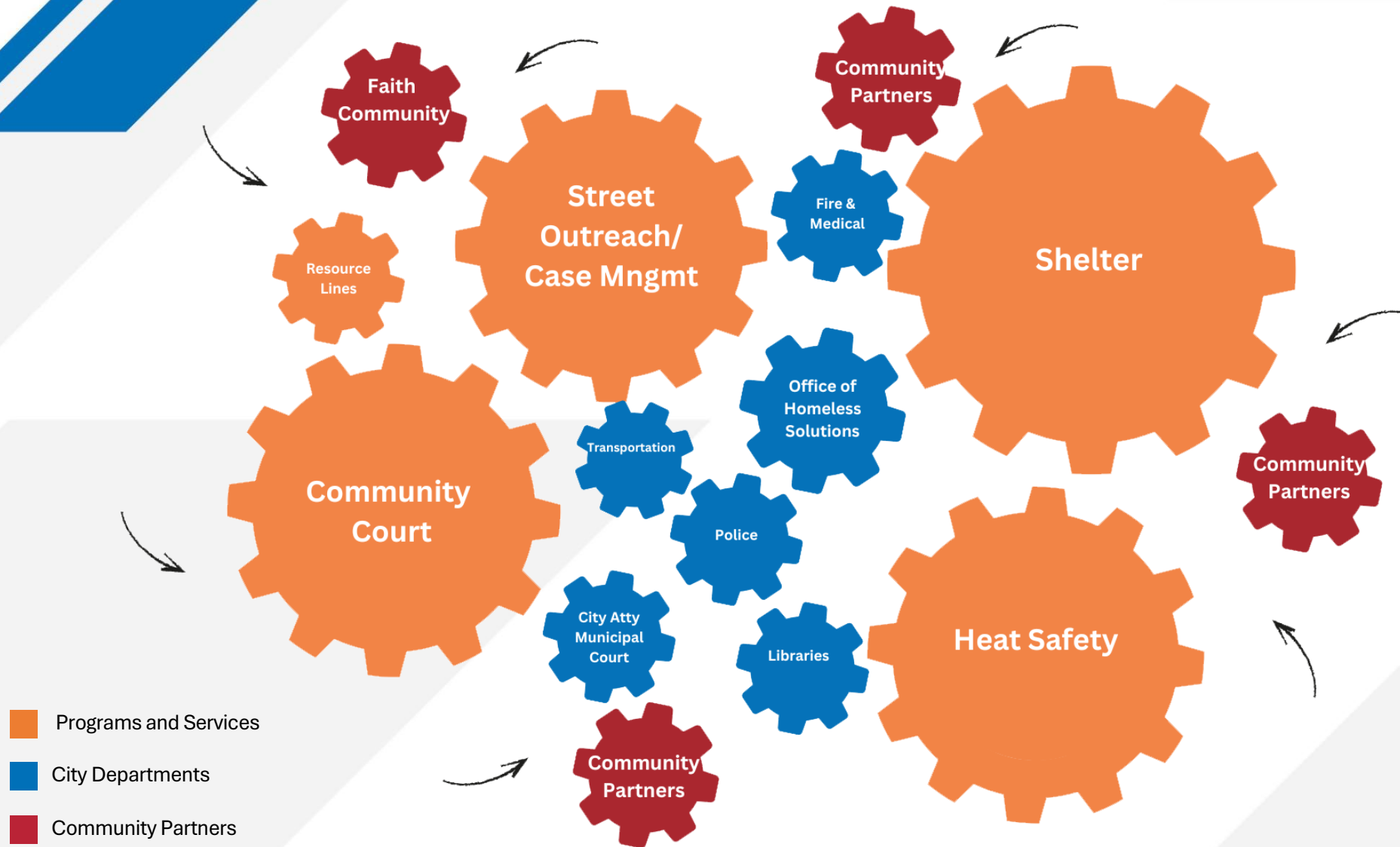
Rental assistance.
Housing vouchers.



INDEPENDENCE

Move to complete independence.
Home ownership.

Interconnected Services



Community Court

Danica Sanchez, Deputy Court Administrator
Shawn Haught, Court Administrator

- Justice partners saw repeat offenses tied to homelessness.
- Traditional justice responses did not change behavior.
- Opportunity to improve resource use, community safety, and individual outcomes.
- Enforcement alone could not resolve homelessness.
- A collaborative, community-based solution was created — **Community Court (2018)**.

Program Model:

- Pre-adjudication
- Voluntary participation
- Incentive-based progress
- Transfer to traditional docket if unsuccessful
- Graduation: stable housing, financial stability, and behavioral progress

Support Services:

- IDs & documentation help
- Shelter & housing referrals
- Physical & mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Workforce & job support
- Benefit applications
- Education opportunities

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Court - 2025

- Procedurally more complex than Community Court
- Defendants with SMI designation need deeper behavioral support
- Connected to a clinic - case managers coordinate treatment, housing, and support services
- Pre-adjudication with incentives

Graduated

Program	2023	2024	2025
CC	126	83	82
SMI	26	27	45

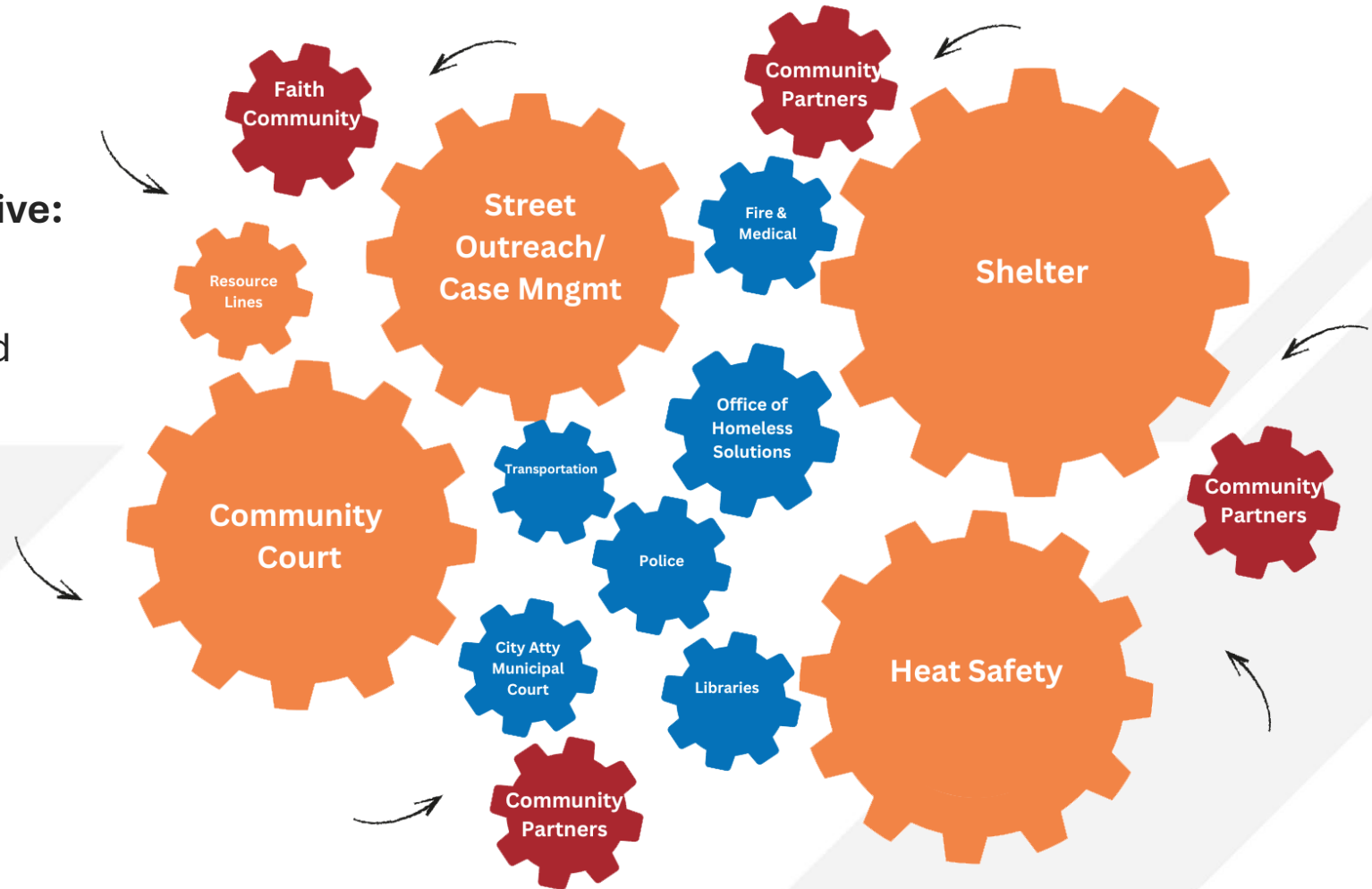
Returned to Program

Program	2023	2024	2025
CC	19	4	1
SMI	5	3	1

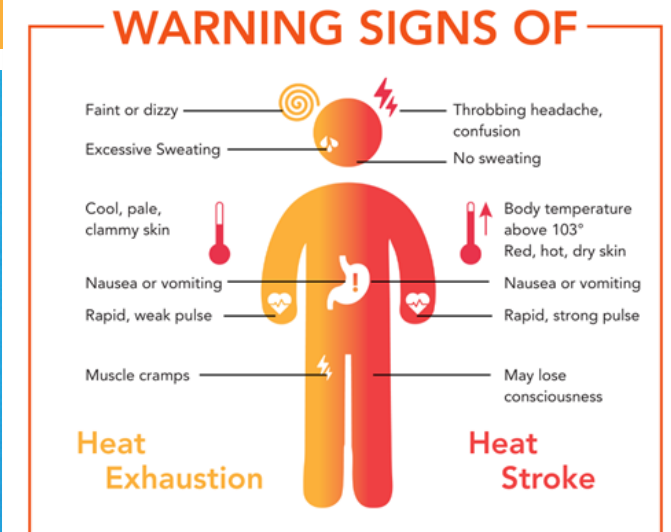
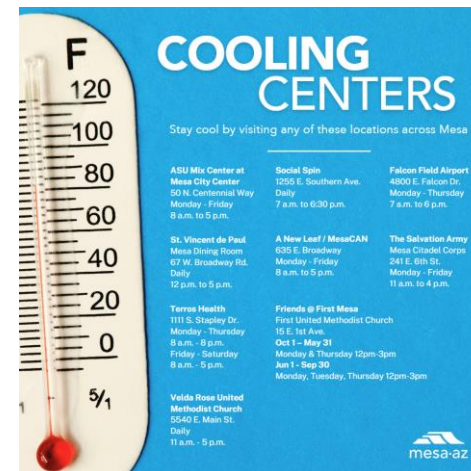
Human Services: Office of Homeless Solutions

Lindsey Balinkie, Community Services Deputy Director
Jason Flam, Public Safety Liaison

- **Office of Homeless Solutions Objective:**
Create robust partnerships and comprehensive services in addressing homelessness to support a healthy and safe community for all in Mesa.
- Core components
 - Heat Safety
 - Street Outreach
 - Shelter
 - Education
 - Collaboration



- Portable AC Loan Program
- Heat Safety Transportation Service
- 22 Heat Safety Locations
- Emergency Rehabilitation Program 64 new A/C units
- Education and Awareness Campaign
- Hydration Donation Campaign
- Collaboration with MFMD, MPD , Emergency Rehab Program, Heat Relief Network, SEA Program, Together in Service, Community Agencies



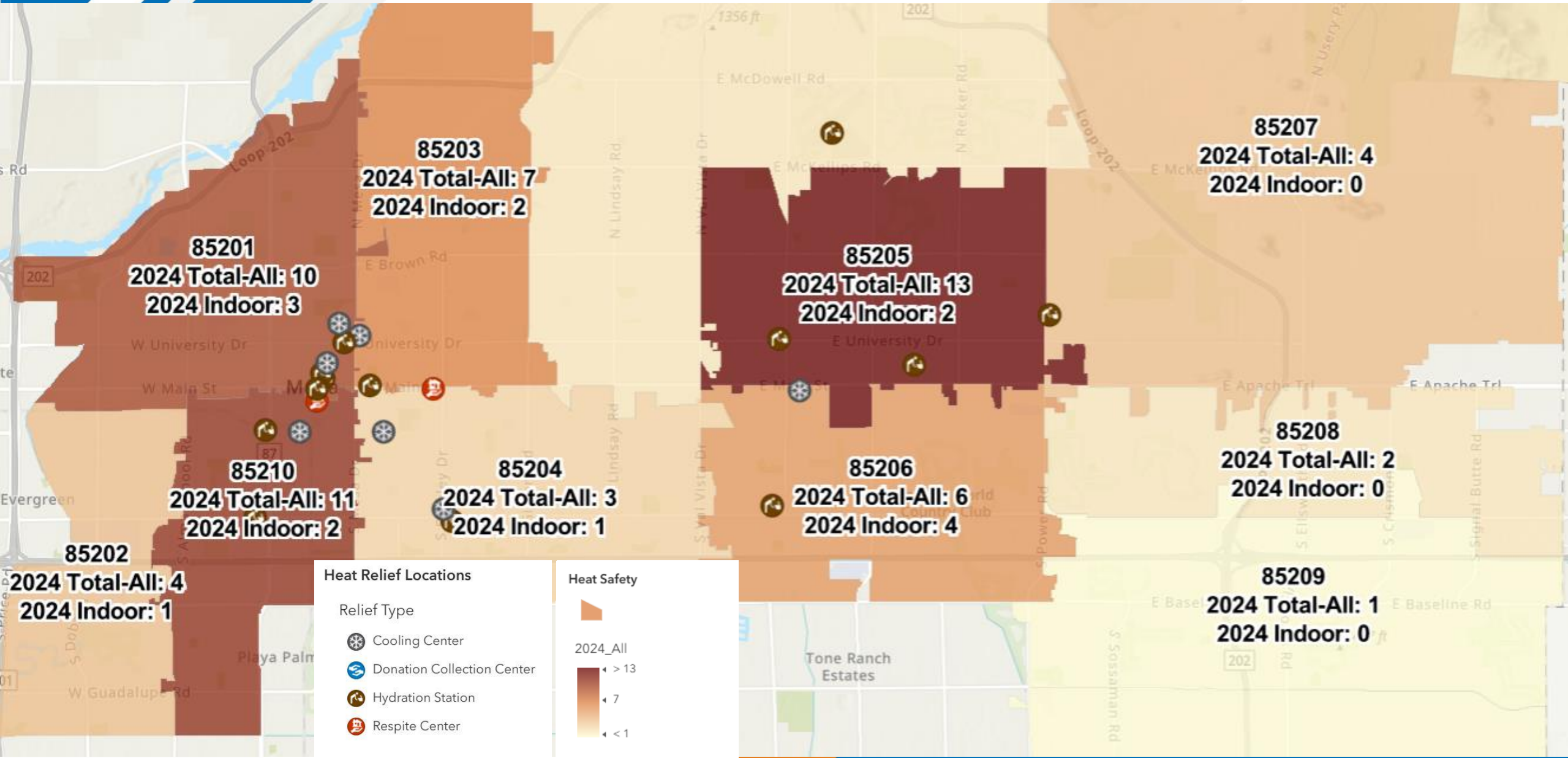
Heat Related Deaths in Mesa

	2023	2024	2025 (As of 10/25/2025)
Total (injury location in Mesa)	47*	55*	34**
Heat Caused	30	30	13
Heat Contributed	17	25	21
Unhoused (patient experiencing homelessness)	20 (62%)	20 (36%)	-
Substance Use Involved (includes drugs/alcohol)	38 (81%)	24 (44%)	-
Outdoor (place of injury)	38 (81%)	38 (69%)	21 (67%)
Indoor (place of injury)	9 (19%)	17 (31%)	13 (33%)
AC Present, Non-Functioning	7	14	-
AC Present, Turned Off	1	1	-
AC Present, No Electricity	0	1	-
AC Not Present	1	1	-

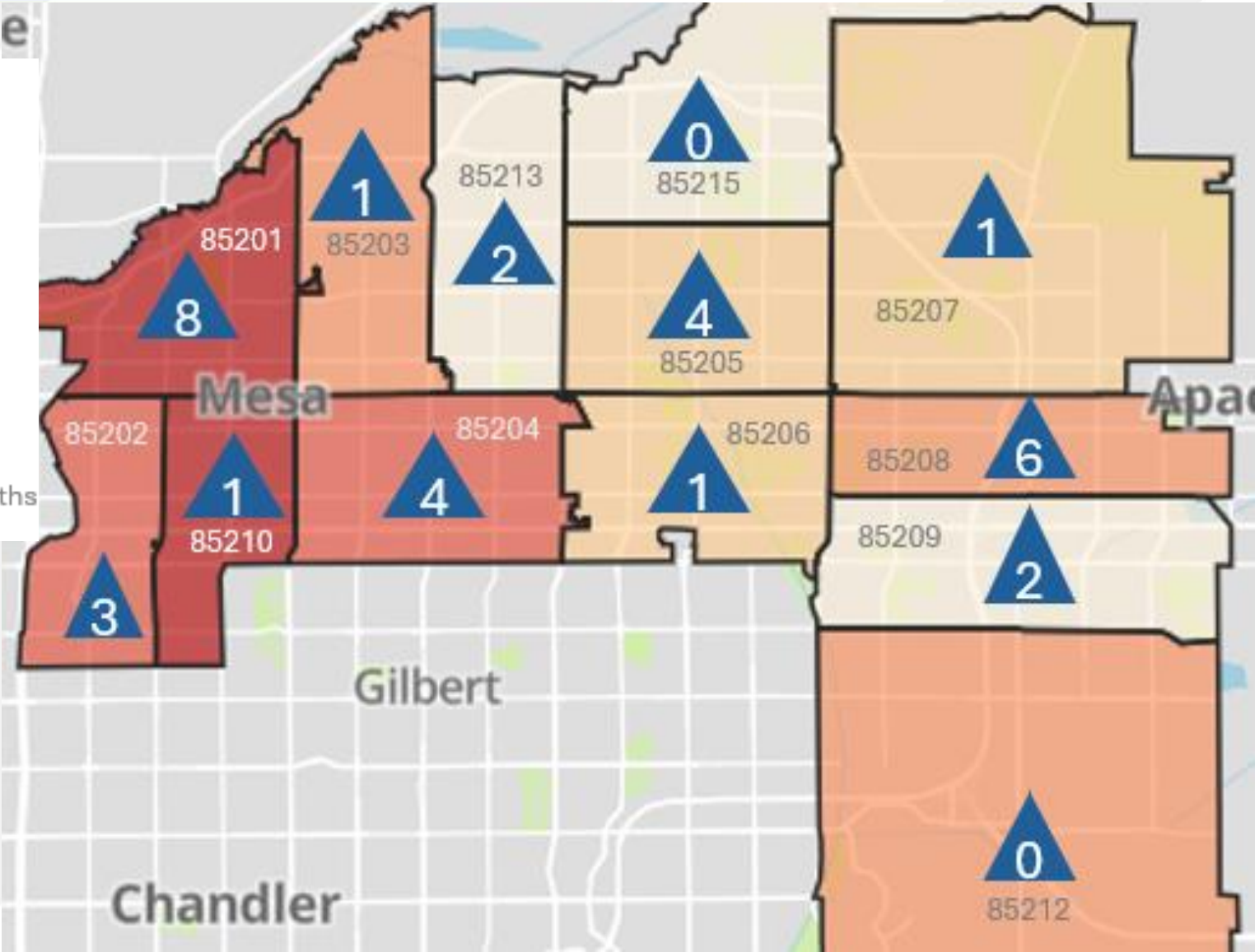
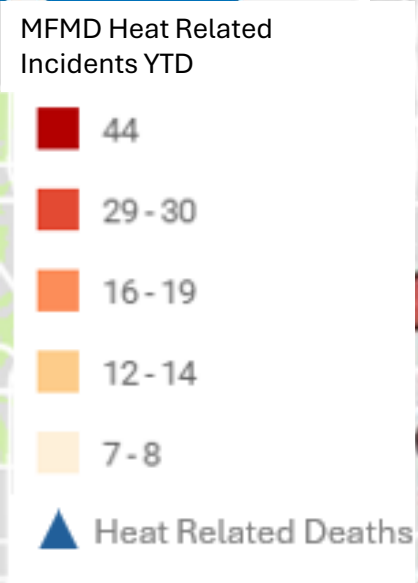
*This number reflects injury locations confirmed to be within Mesa city limits.

** Preliminary deaths within City of Mesa ZIP codes; totals currently available only by injury location (indoor/outdoor) and may include deaths occurring in county islands.

Heat Safety: 2025 Heat Relief Locations and 2024 Heat Related Deaths



2025 Heat Related Deaths Reported* and
2025 YTD MFMD Heat Related Incidents by Zip Code



* Preliminary Maricopa County data

Portable AC Loan Program

- 48 households served
- Prioritization to vulnerable residents (seniors, children, people with disabilities)

Heat Safety Transport 2025

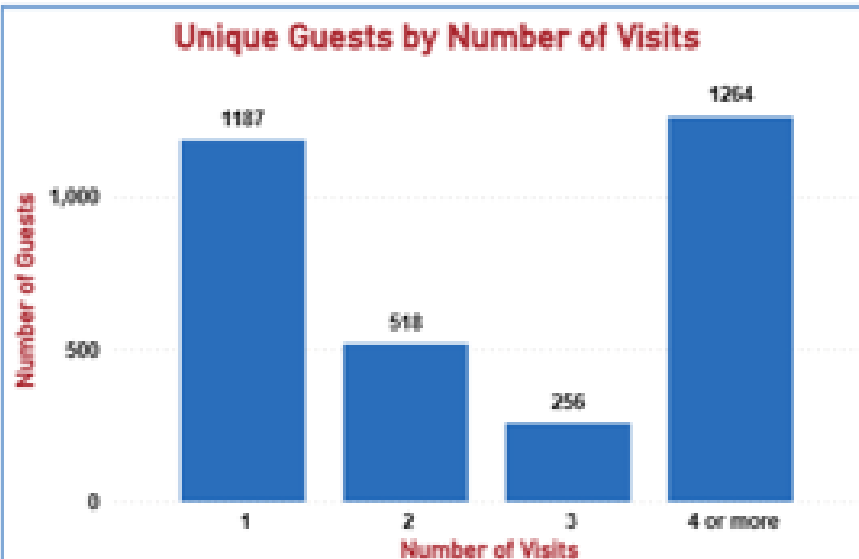
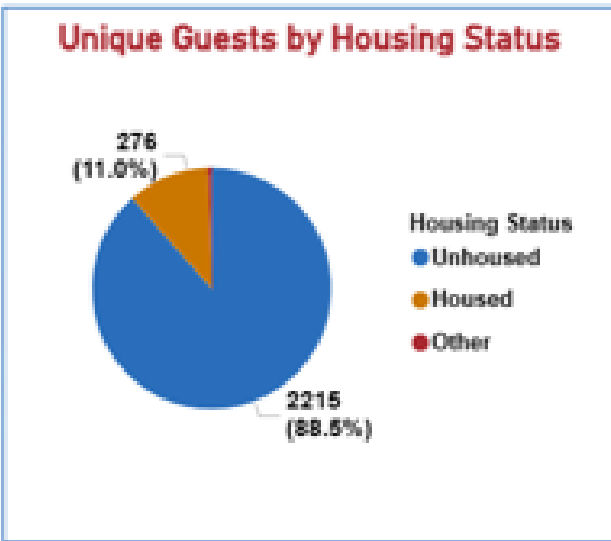
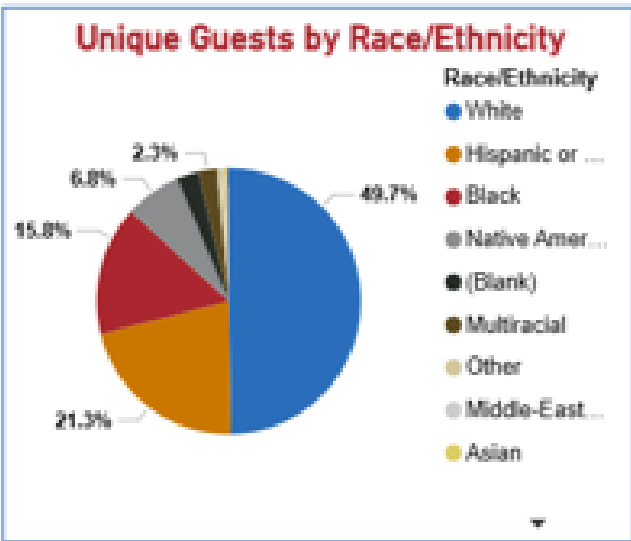
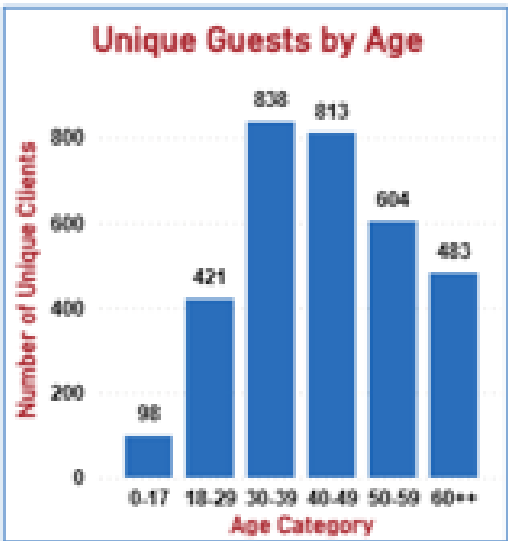
Month	# of Transports
June	124
July	180
August	231
September	317
TOTAL	852

Both services divert from higher cost systems including MFMD and help prevent heat related deaths and homelessness.

Heat Safety: Day Respite Center 2025



Unique Guests: 3257 | Total Visits: 13.87K



Diverts from higher cost systems including MFMD or hospital and prevents heat related deaths.

- 12 street outreach navigators, vehicles, tool kits
 - 10 mobile, 2 stationed with local sites
 - Hotline and referral system
 - Coordinated collaborative approach
- Daily citywide street outreach (7days/up to 16 hours per day)
- Supports Heat Relief, Public Safety, Mesa Libraries, local agencies
- Expertise in peer support, building rapport through repeated connections, case management with connection to services



July-September 2025

719
**UNIQUE
INDIVIDUALS**

Male
53%

Female
42%

132 SHELTER/HOUSING PLACEMENTS

- **31** PRM Residential
- **77** Shelter/Temp Housing
- **24** Permanent Housing

96

**RECOVERY PROGRAM
PLACEMENTS***

*Contract YTD (Feb-Sept 2025)

CONNECTION TO CARE/RESOURCES

- **69** Behavioral Health/Medical
- **62** Substance Use
- **13** Employment Services
- **142** Birth Certificate/ID

431

**TRANSPORT TO SERVICES
ENSURE CONNECTION**

117

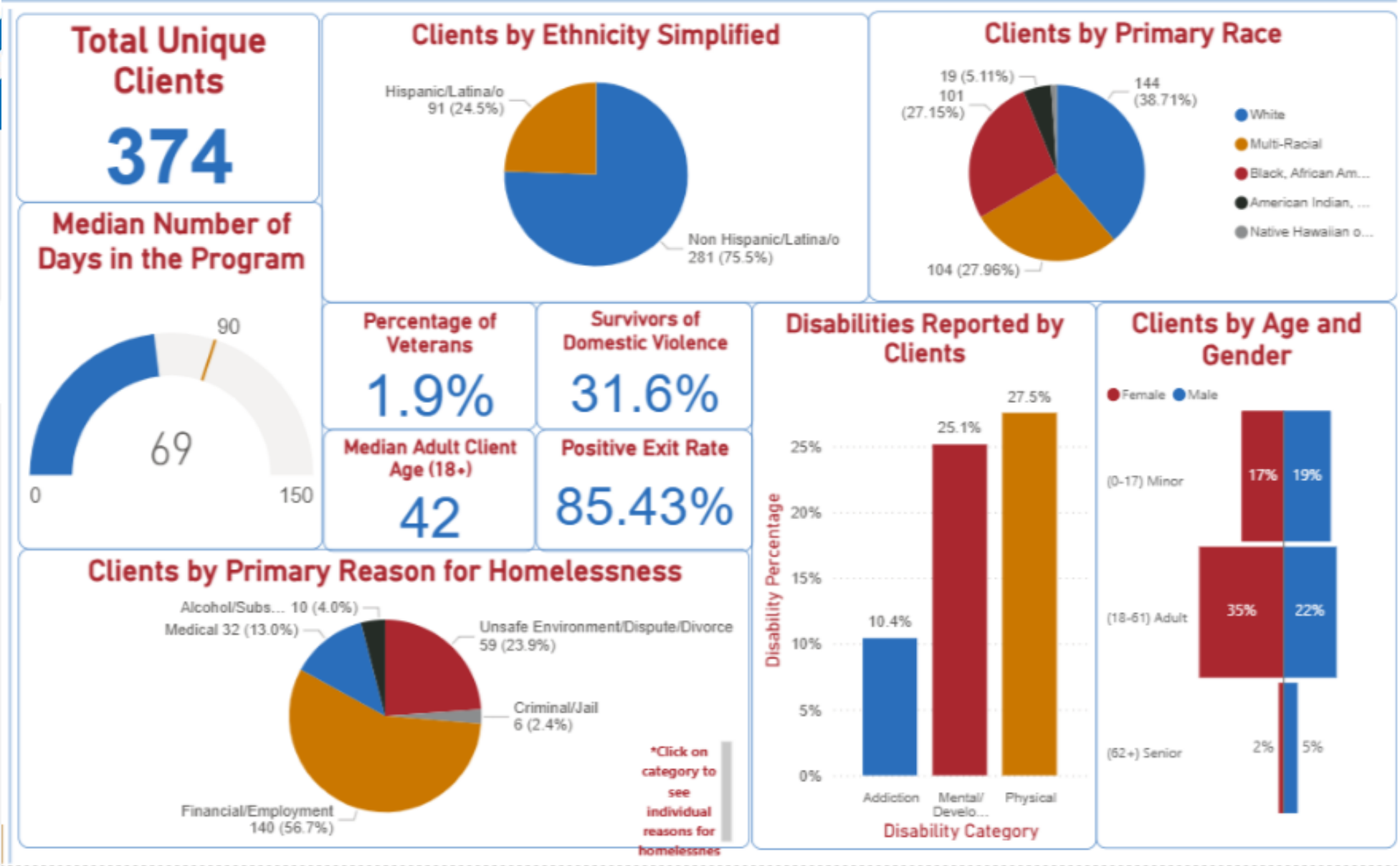
HOTLINE CALLS

This service diverts from and/or reduces higher cost systems including PD, MFMD, Hospital, New/Chronic Homelessness, supports police and library staff.

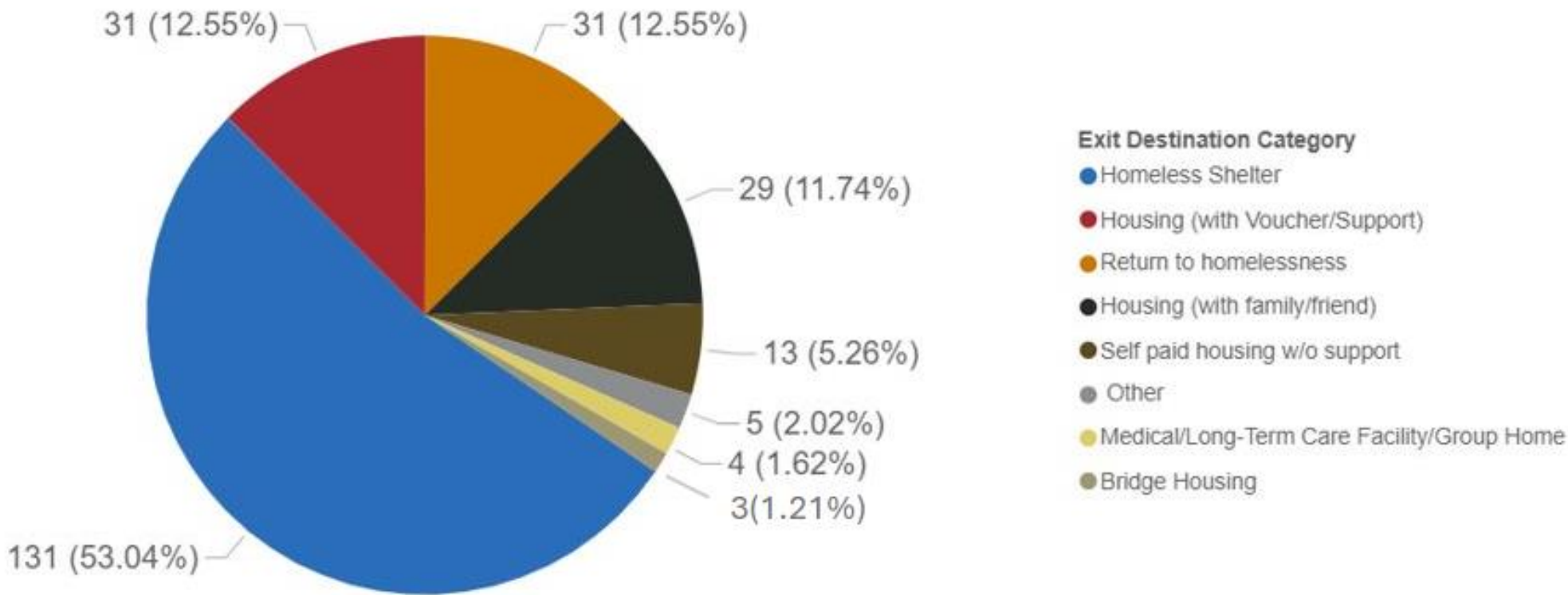
Off the Streets Program Background

- ✓ 5 years of community impact
- ✓ Began in alignment with Martin v Boise, Covid Funding and rise in homelessness
- ✓ Currently renting 85 rooms at Windemere Hotel
- ✓ Moving to Sunaire property Spring 2026
- ✓ Supports Public Safety/Community Court
- ✓ Rules and requirements
- ✓ Case management
- ✓ Only Mesa shelter for families/women





Clients by Exit Destination Category



Sunaire Update: Timeline



Rendering



Rendering



CONTINUES

*90-day structured program

*Program management

Property management

*No walk ups

Transportation

*Police presence

Pet friendly

NEW

Control of campus

*Serving seniors, families and
domestic violence victims
ONLY

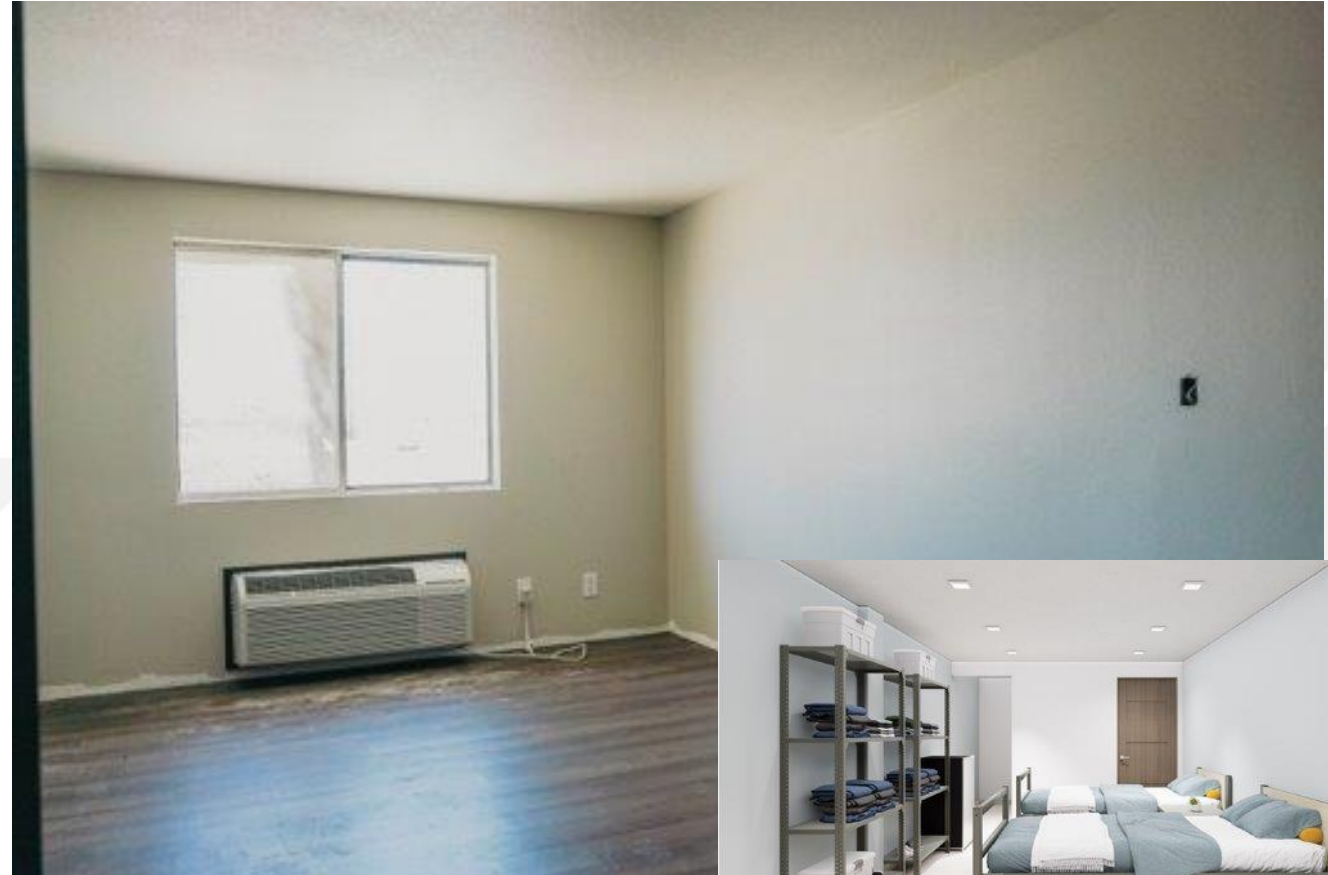
Additional family friendly
rooms

*Cameras

*Council Use Permit Requirement



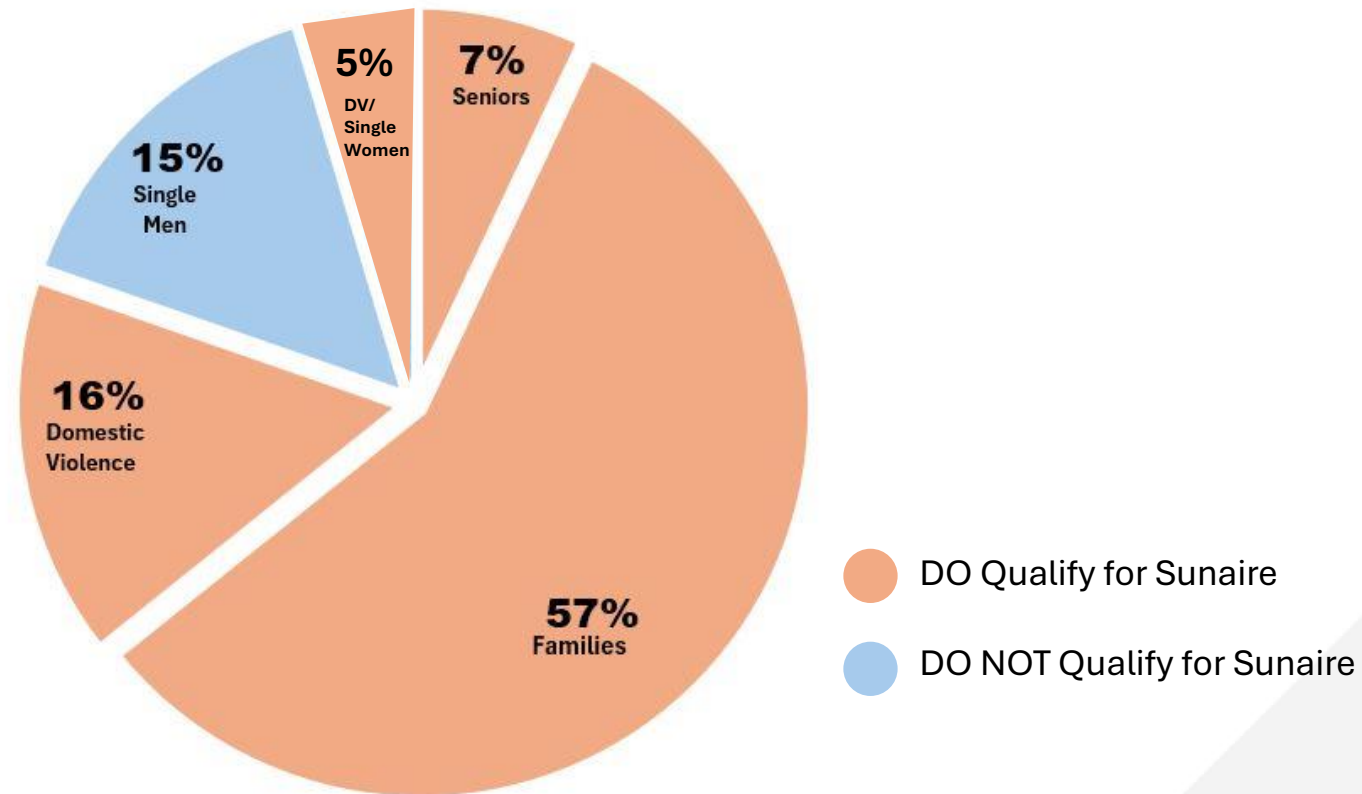
- 64 shelter rooms
- Room furniture
- Adjoining doors
- Intake room
- Laundry
- Security cameras
- Playground
- Fence



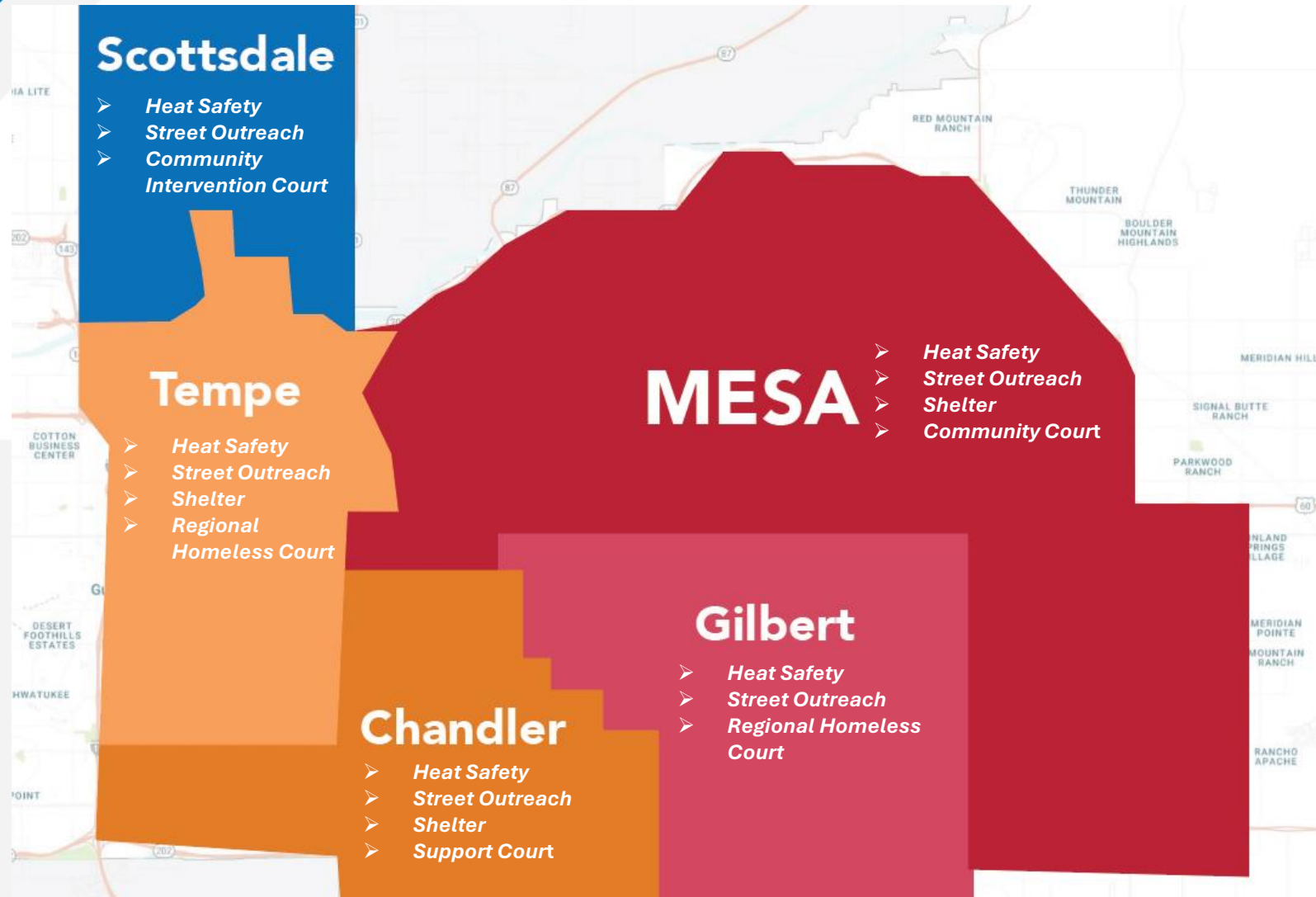
- October/November 2025: Solicitation for program and property management.
- Maximize federal funding opportunities



2024 Off the Streets Program Participants



Regional Efforts



WARM HAND OFFS, COLLABORATION WITHIN REGION

INTERDEPARTMENTAL HOMELESS STRATEGY TEAM

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLABORATIVE/TOGETHER IN SERVICE

SPECIAL PROJECTS: PAZ DE CRISTO BROADWAY CORRIDOR

ANNUAL POINT IN TIME COUNT

RESOURCE EVENTS

- Healthy Giving (panhandling) Signs
 - New sign locations
 - New ways to give
 - [Healthy Giving - City of Mesa](#)
- Giving Tree collaboration with Mesa Libraries for Off the Streets Shelter



City of Mesa
Off the Streets Program
GIVING TREE



Gift(s) to Donate:

Cozy blanket
or
kids' blanket

*Drop your donation off at the
Main or Red Mountain Library
by December 15, 2025.
Donations should be new,
unwrapped items.
Thank you!*





Homeless Resource Card

Phoenix Rescue Mission Street Outreach Hotline
(602) 346-3361

Mesa Homeless Resource Line
(480) 644-HOPE (4673)

Scan For More
Resources



Connection to Shelter



Replace lost IDs



Employment Resources



Mental Health Services



Transportation



Housing Assistance

Email us: hope@mesaaz.gov



mesa·az