



Off the Streets

Addressing health and safety needs.

Improving the quality of life and housing stability for all in Mesa.



www.mesaaz.gov/OfftheStreets



Unsheltered homelessness has increased 72% from 2017 to 2023 in Maricopa County.

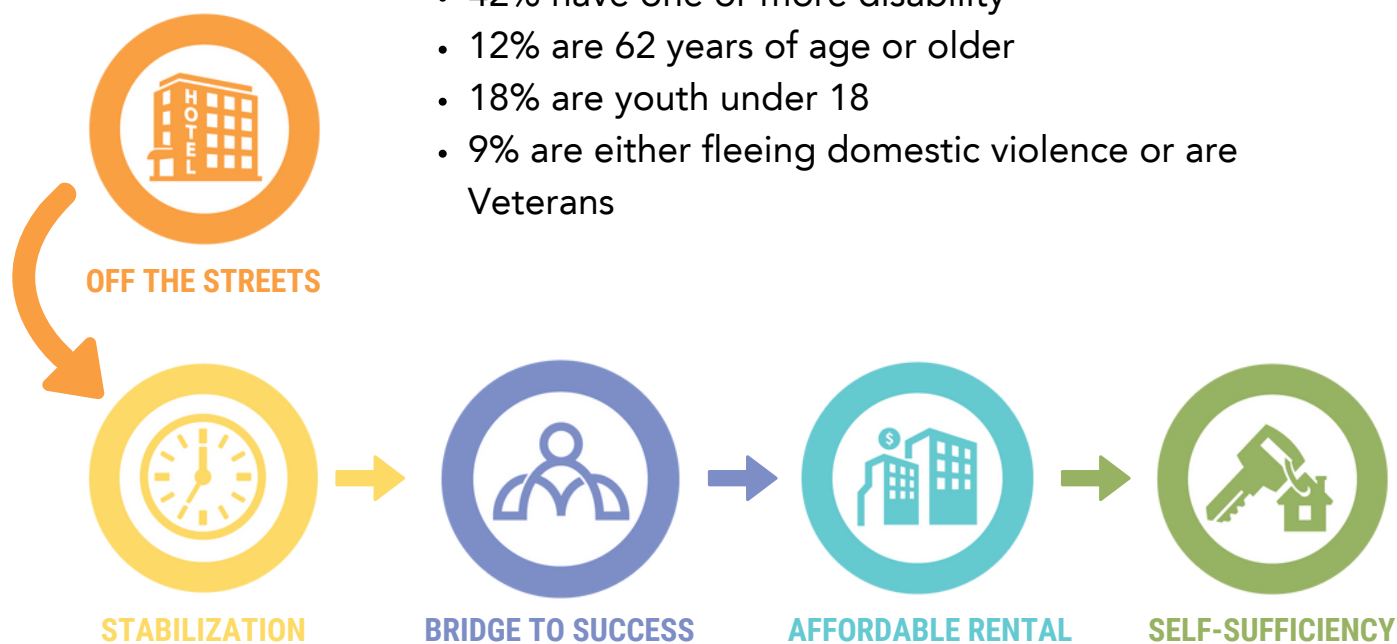
Off the Streets is a proven concept that provides wrap-around services with a success rate of 75%.

Addressing Homelessness in Mesa

The Off the Streets program is a temporary housing program with strong support services offered by the City of Mesa and our partner Community Bridges, Inc (CBI). The program is part of Mesa's Housing Path to Recovery and serves our most vulnerable unsheltered residents, including seniors, Veterans, families with young children and single women. This program includes policies and procedures to ensure the program and its location remain a good neighbor.

As of May 2023, more than 1,500 individuals and families have been served, of which:

- 42% have one or more disability
- 12% are 62 years of age or older
- 18% are youth under 18
- 9% are either fleeing domestic violence or are Veterans



*Learn more about each step of the Path to Recovery at www.mesaaz.gov/HandUp



How our program works

- City of Mesa currently rents hotel rooms for this program at a hotel in northeast Mesa.
- Dedicated, onsite police presence ensures the programs campus offers a secure and welcoming environment.
- Referrals are made by Mesa Police/Fire & Medical/Park Rangers and community partners.
- Many referred to Off The Streets may be placed with alternate service providers such as East Valley Men's Shelter, treatment facilities, or a domestic violence shelter.
- Those that are placed in Off The Streets receive temporary housing for up to 90 days.
- Mesa's most vulnerable are given priority placement: families, women, Veterans, seniors, and people living with disabilities.
- Community Bridges, Inc. provides 24/7 on-site oversight and case management.
- Additional support services are provided off-site.
- Positive progress on housing plan and adherence to program rules required.
- Closed campus model with no walk-up or drop-in services.





Mathilda

At 65, Mathilda is on oxygen and needs a walker due to a partial amputation. After a rent raise that she couldn't afford, Mathilda was evicted from her Mesa apartment and started living in her car. A collision totaled her car, so she had no other option but to sleep on the streets. Mesa PD officers referred her to the Off the Streets program. She stayed there, safe and sound for two weeks, until she reunited with family out of state.

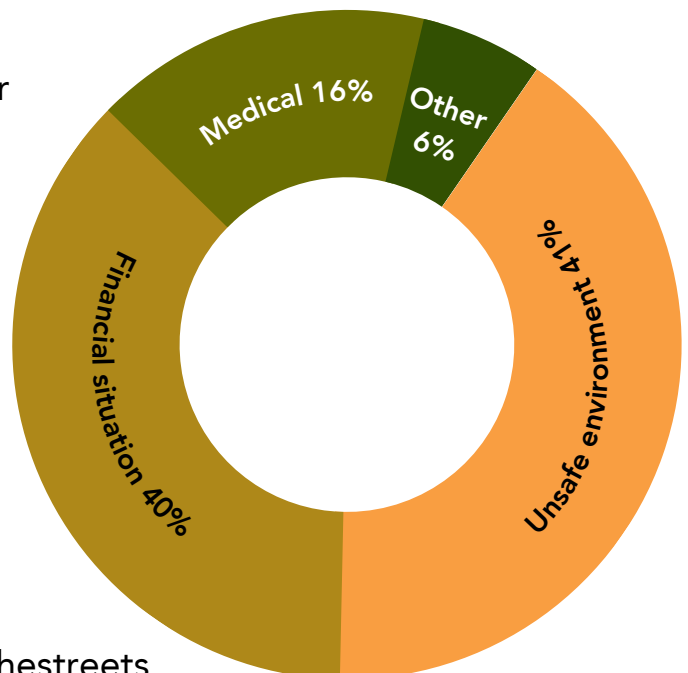


The highest growing groups experiencing homelessness are women, elderly 62+ and people with disabilities.

Primary reasons for homelessness

81% of our clients have lost secure housing due to an unsafe environment or financial hardship.

Domestic violence, family disputes, loss of employment and eviction, are the most frequent reasons reported by clients as they enter our program (April 2021 to March 2022.)



More information at www.mesaaz.gov/offthestreets

Shawna

Holding her 10-day old baby and a 4-year old scared little girl at program entry, Shawna asked for help after leaving a domestic abuse situation. She utilized the wrap around services, including workforce development and progressed rapidly to become self-reliant and renting her own apartment. She is now thriving and has promoted into management with her employer.



21.2% of clients served are victims or survivors of domestic violence. 6.7% were fleeing domestic violence at the time of entry to the program.

Median adult
client age (18+)

45

Median minor
client age (0-17)

9

49%

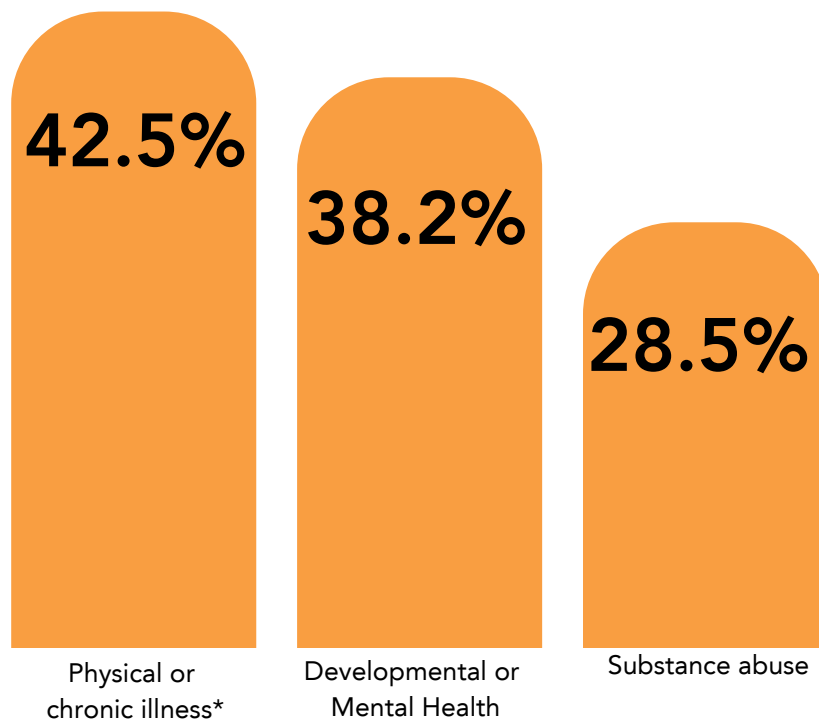
of our clients are female

The Johnsons

This family of three lived in a tent in the desert in East Mesa. Dad was a dedicated caregiver to their adult disabled child, while Mom worked full-time as a schoolteacher. Their income was not sufficient to make rent.



The Police Officer who found them referred the family to Off The Streets, where they engaged in wrap-around services and achieved stable housing. The navigators also connected them to programs to improve the well-being of the special needs adult child.



26% of our clients have one disability, 20% lives with two disabling conditions and 22% with three or more.

Having emergency beds as a part of the Off The Streets Program, allows the City to enforce urban camping laws citywide supporting our goal of a healthy and safe community for all.

Safety for everyone

- OTS offers a safe place to sleep and access support services to become self sufficient.
- The dedicated police presence on-site, day and night, supports the safety of staff, clients and the surrounding area.
- The surrounding area benefits from a heightened presence from Mesa Police and CBI, and trespass enforcement.
- OTS has existed for more than three years in East Mesa with no measurable crime impact from the program.





www.mesaaz.gov/OfftheStreets
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480-644-4673 (HOPE)



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Spring/Fall 2023

Proposed Hotel Purchase

Off the Streets has operated from a rented facility in Northeast Mesa since 2020. The City of Mesa is proposing the purchase of the 70-room Grand Hotel at 6733 E Main Street, Mesa 85205.

If purchased, the facility would be rezoned from a hotel to a human service facility to relocate the existing temporary housing program in northeast Mesa referred to as Off the Streets. Community Bridges, Inc. would continue operating this closed-campus, referral-based program, which also includes policies and procedures and dedicated police presence onsite to ensure the program and its location remain a good neighbor.

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Off The Streets

Good Neighbor Policy

The City of Mesa and CBI are committed to working with the community to reduce homelessness, minimizing the impact of the program to the surrounding area, and being a good neighbor.

- Police presence day and night.
- Community Bridges, Inc 24-7 onsite management.
- Community contact for information and feedback.
- Referral-based program (no walk-ins).
- Clean and well-maintained campus.
- Limited and visually buffered outdoor common areas.
- Curfew, room checks and structured program rules.
- No visitors w/o written permission and monitoring.
- Off-campus human and health services

This Good Neighbor Policy will be shared with community stakeholders for input. Last update June 2023.



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