

Off the Streets Emergency Shelter Program

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Police

Physical safety of person and property from immediate or threatened danger



Fire & Medical

Physical safety of person due to immediate health or injury. Stabilization and referral to relevant resources



Street Outreach

Physical safety of person due to immediate or threatened danger. Referral to relevant resources



Emergency Shelter

Physical safety of person due to immediate or threatened danger. Stabilization and referral to relevant resources



Mental/Behavioral Health

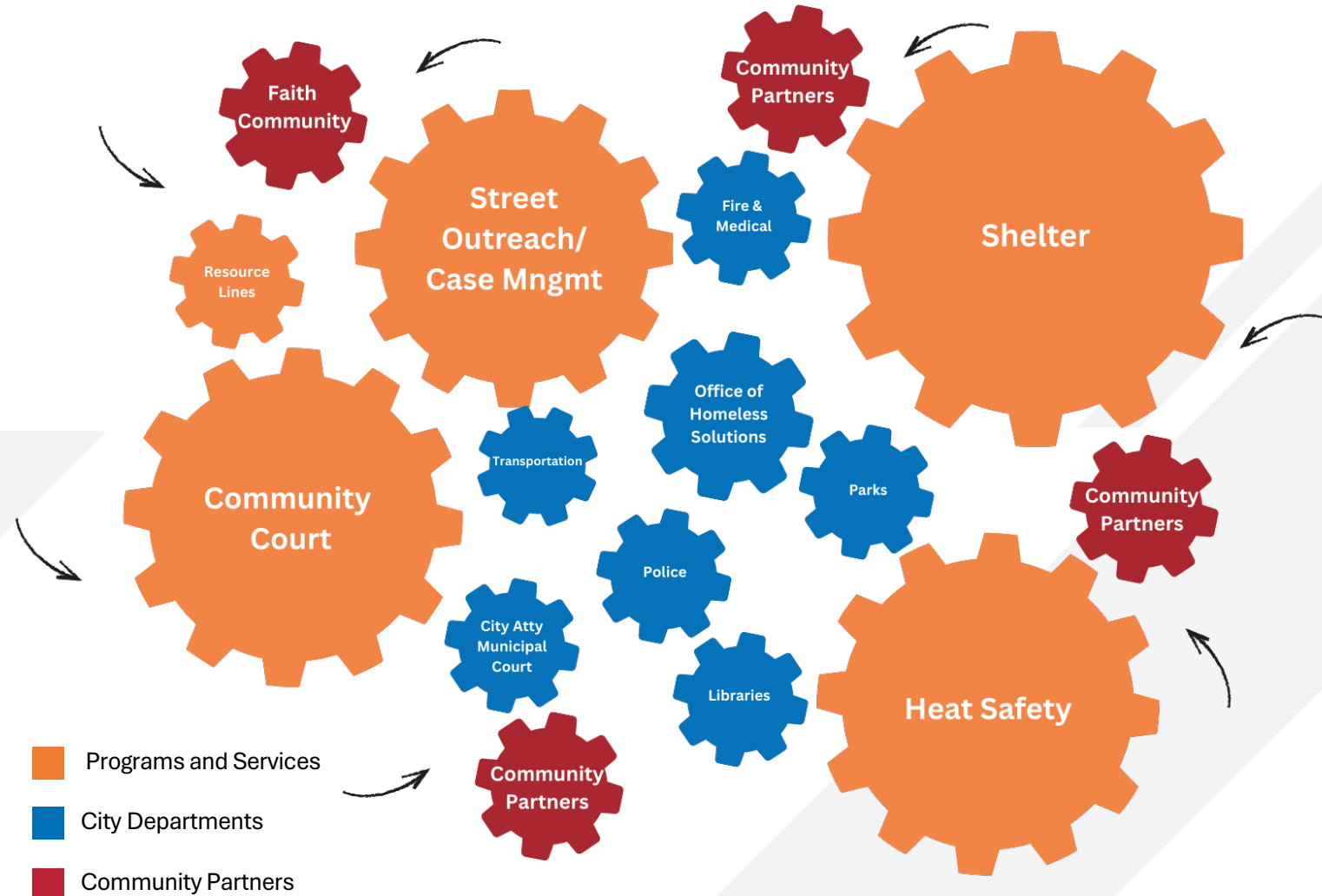
Physical safety of person due to immediate health. Stabilization and referral to relevant resources

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

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Heat Safety
- Collaboration
- Support to first responders, neighborhoods and businesses





Mesa pays for homelessness with or without providing services.



City-led coordination is essential in meeting public safety needs of entire community.



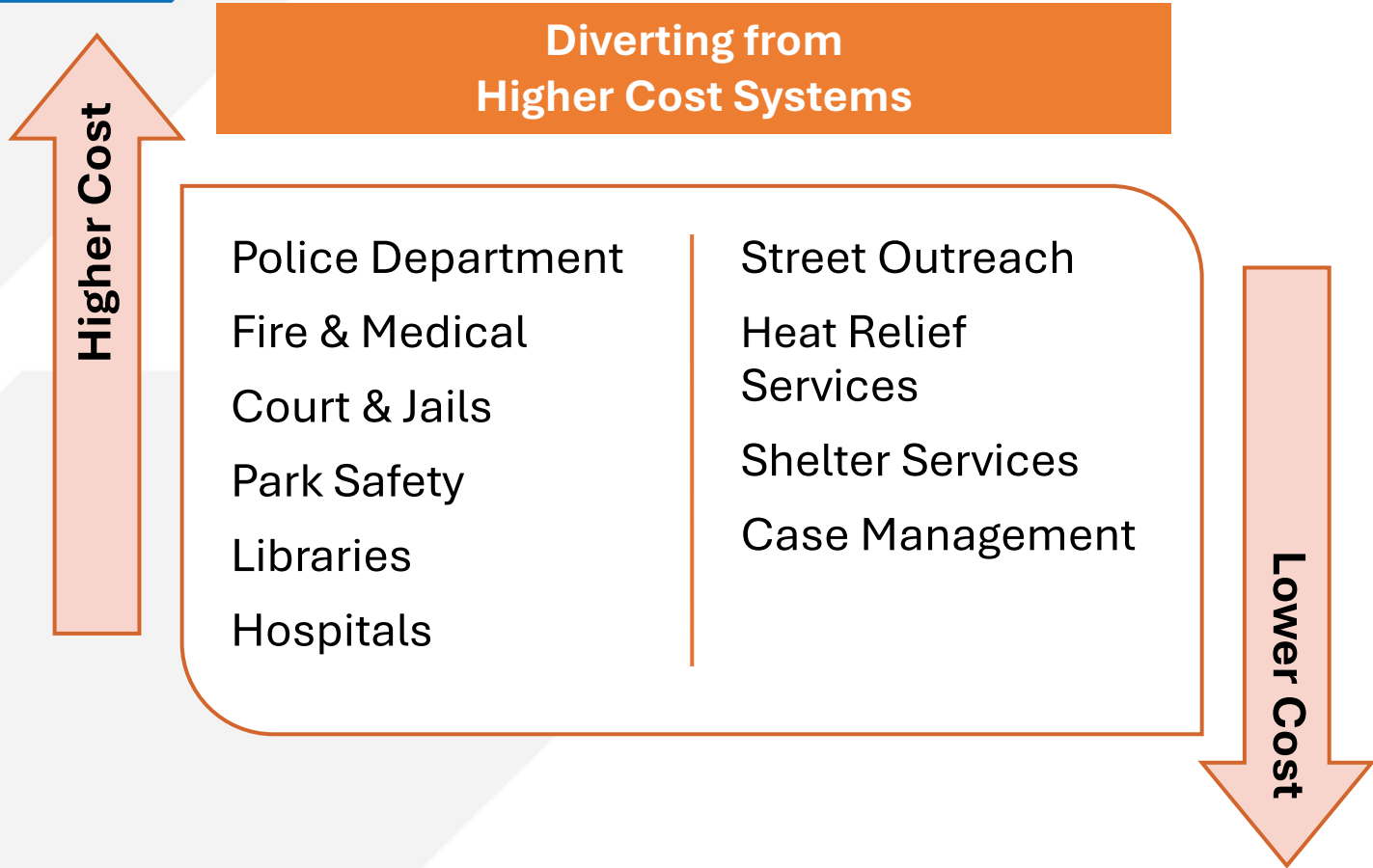
First Responder support is required.



Collaboration increase capacity to serve needs better together.



City investment in services strengthens accountability and aligns services with priorities.



Homelessness touches nearly every public system:

- Police
- Fire/medical
- Behavioral health
- Courts
- Libraries
- Code enforcement
- Housing services
- Neighborhoods

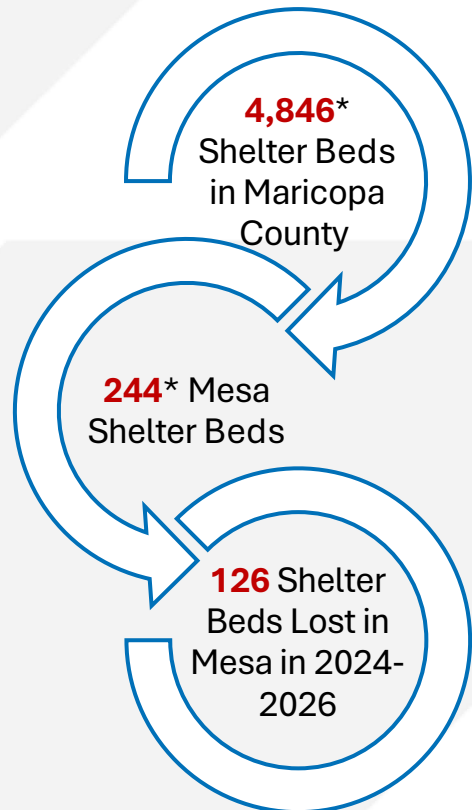
Mesa families are in crisis and are lacking basic needs to survive

- In the last 12 months, we have provided emergency housing to **85 families with 235 children**, and **100 seniors**.
- Today we are helping 17 families at Windermere with 17 families and 109 singles on waitlist, with a 6-week wait.
- In the region, coordinated entry wait list requires 2-4 months before entering system.
- There is a significant gap in housing availability and rental prices for those earning 50% of the Area Median Income.*

Non-profit and faith-based organizations provide services and some shelter support but cannot meet all needs of the community

- No organization is able/willing to fully fund an emergency shelter at this time. Agencies are willing to partner with us, if we provide funding. (Request for Information solicitation April 2026)
- Emergency shelter is a difficult service for a non-profit to provide as there are no program revenues to offset costs. Recently emergency shelters have been turned into revenue models with transitional housing or affordable housing.
- Alternative models may be possible with time and collaboration. Non-profits need time to develop revenue campaigns and will need a partnership with the city during the transition

Homeless Shelter Beds



*Single adult & family beds
County Shelter Beds Source: COC HIC

Family Emergency Shelter options in Mesa are extremely limited:

With our program:

- 111 or 156 beds (Windemere/Sunaire location) for families, women, and seniors
- 28 additional family beds
- 105 beds for single men

Mesa's population makes up 11% of Maricopa County. Mesa provides 5% of emergency shelter beds in Maricopa County

Without our program:

- 28 beds for families
- 0 beds for all women without children
- 105 beds for single men

Mesa provides less than 3% of emergency shelter beds in Maricopa County

Most cities are focused on serving their own residents, which places Mesa residents as a lower priority and on long waiting lists when receiving shelter outside of the city.

458 Unique Individuals Assisted in
Last 12 months

235
Children

100
Seniors

202
Domestic
Violence
Survivors

- Council approved the use of CARES/ARPA federal funds to set-up and operate an emergency shelter program through leased rooms at the Windermere Hotel
- June 2022 Council allocated ARPA funds for a long-term solution. After multiple locations were considered, on May 2023 Council approved the purchase of 6733 E Main St, previously known as the Grand Hotel, currently known as Sunaire
- As the ARPA funding was coming to an end, the need to transition to alternate funding was identified.
 - Original program called for moving the program to Sunaire while retaining some rooms and the dusk to dawn room at Windemere to service single males. During the 25/26 budget process, Council approved staff's recommendation to discontinue all programming at Windemere once the program moved to Sunaire. \$2.5M in General Fund was identified to cover the annual budget, with an impact of \$900K in 25/26 due to residual ARPA funding. Council requested staff look for alternate funding to help offset the general fund in the future
- Fall 2025, staff identified one-time funding through HOME ARP and ARPA interest income that can fully offset General Fund for three years



- **Sunaire is Ready.**
 - Certificate of Occupancy issued, City has possession
- **Notice of Intent to Award issued to [Mercy House](#) for emergency shelter services pending funding***
 - Mercy House has been providing shelter services for 33 years
 - Operates 156-bed City of Tempe-owned emergency shelter
 - Mercy House applied for a \$1.0M Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) grant on behalf of the Sunaire program. The results should be known by the end of May.
 - If/when the program is operational, Mercy House will explore obtaining in-kind support and other means of funding through grant applications.
 - The city will support fundraising efforts either through Mercy House or independently through a new city administered 501(c)(3)

**A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in Fall 2025 to provide emergency shelter services at Sunaire. Seven proposals were received. Site visits were completed for the top three applicants. Mercy House was deemed the top applicant based on cost and quality. A notice of intent to award was issued in Spring 2026, which allows Mercy House to apply for grants on behalf of the program.*

Years one through three:

- One-time funds from HOME ARP can fully offset the programming/case management costs
- One-time ARPA interest income can fully offset the property maintenance/leased room costs

Years four and beyond:

- General Fund
- Pursuit of federal/state funding
- Pursuit of fundraising opportunities
 - Grants through a new city 501(c)(3)
 - Corporate sponsorships
 - Individual giving

Lease rooms at Windemere or an alternate hotel

- 65 rooms – 111 beds
- Monthly program cost \$106,000 (\$955/bed)
- Monthly room cost \$104,000
- Monthly food cost \$0
- Annual budget \$2,520,000

Utilize city-owned rooms at Sunaire

- 64 rooms – 158 beds
- Monthly program cost \$100,000 (\$633/bed)
- Monthly property maintenance cost \$66,600
- Monthly food cost \$41,700
- Annual budget \$2,500,000

Discontinue program

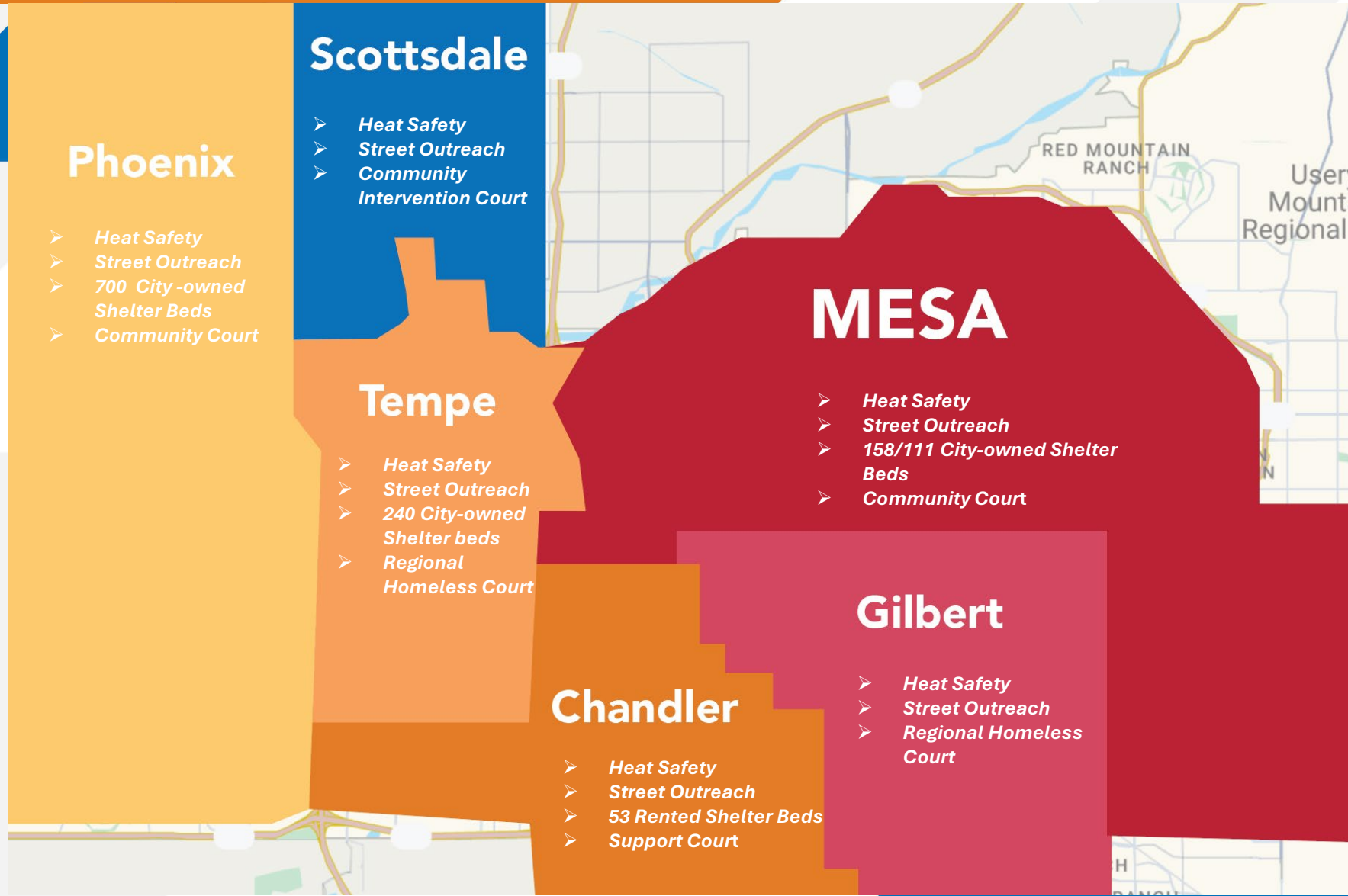
- Extremely limited options in Mesa
- Phoenix Rescue Mission will need to refer Mesa families to outside of the city to receive services
- Limits support to Mesa PD/Fire
- Current ARPA funds estimated to run out at the end of August. A transition plan would need to be created



mesa·az

Council Request	Result
Determine rental agreement interest	Request for Information (RFI) to solicit interest in Sunaire rental agreement, conducted in April 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one RFI response with request for city to provide 2.5M in funding • Feedback from other agencies indicates city funding would be needed to provide services
Real Estate Appraisal	2026 appraisal value: \$6,300,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase price of property: \$7,474,388 • Improvement cost: \$6,529,257 • Total City ARPA related investment: \$14,004,645 • Total funds subject to repayment: \$13,280,950
Seek Department of Treasury Guidance	The city is still awaiting a response from the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding payback requirements

Regional Government Efforts



Family Promise

Bridge Housing

Up to 10 Families with Minor Children

Up-to 60 days length of stay

Funded by private donations, grants, and 12% government funding.

Eden Village

Permanent Housing

Single Adults

No cap on length of stay

Funded by private donations and grants.

The Other Side Village (Utah)

Permanent Housing

Single Adults

No cap on length of stay

Funded by client rent, social enterprise, private donations, and grants. City land contribution and funding for capital.