

Health and Safety for Mesa and its Homeless Strategic Plan 2021 / 2022



Today's presentation

- State of homelessness in Mesa and Maricopa County
- Guiding principles and key strategies
- Housing path to recovery concept
- Common 'in the field' scenarios
- Next steps

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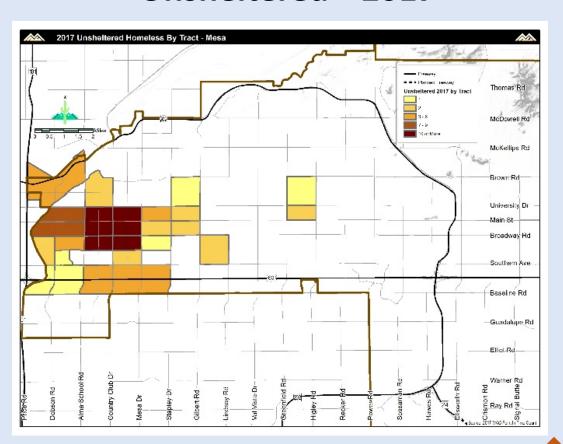


Source: Maricopa Association of Governments 2020 Point-in-time Count Report. https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count

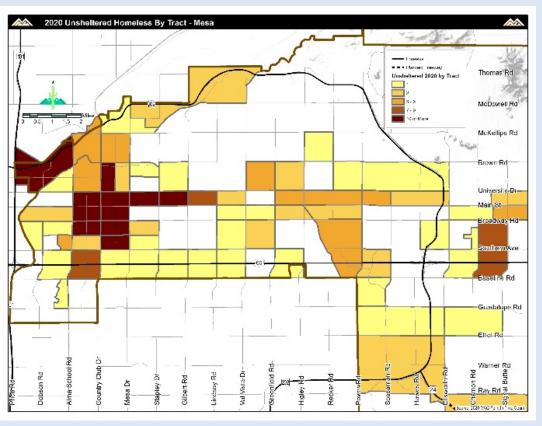
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Unsheltered-- 2017



Unsheltered-- 2020





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Guiding Principles

- 1. Public safety is our priority
- 2. Wise investment in local and federal funds
- 3. Strong nonprofit collaborations
- 4. Regional share of the cost/impacts
- 5. Measure and communicate results
- 6. Housing path to recovery

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Public Safety Strategies

- Continue "Off the Streets" program CY 2021
- Enforce urban camping
- Ensure safe parks, libraries, City Center, etc.
- Use technology
- Continue community court
- Reduce evictions due to COVID-19



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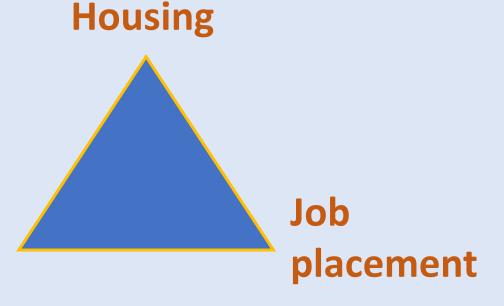
Strategies for use of public funds

- Prioritize funding for Mesa-based service outcomes
- Continue service navigation, crossdepartmental partnerships
- Continue Housing Our Heroes

 Veteran

 Affairs Support Housing (VASH) vouchers
- Seek stability and path to recovery and jobs training and placement

Support Services



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Strategies to work regionally

- Funding set aside
- At the table; influencers
- Advocacy at regional and state levels
- Regional means equity in sharing service impacts

Strategies-- transparency

- Data Portal
- Communications strategy



Strategy: Housing Path to Recovery

RECOVERY, JOBS SHELTER

Sheltering for 3-6 months. Men's shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter, Rent Assistance.

Committed to recovery. Serious self-work begins. Formal rules and structure. Time for accountability and building history of success.

- Individual plans and accountability
- · Camaraderie, learning to live with others, following societal rules
- Financial/Banking, Education, Job. Searches
- Continued counselling, healthcare, medications, and basic food/shelter
- · Community Court





One year to unlimited stays. Rapid Rehousing. Rental Assistance. Housing Choice Voucher.

Continues to demonstrate success. Phased reductions in services.

 \Diamond

- Private housing
- Homebuyer education
- Building credit
- Tailored supportive services.







EMERGENCY

At Mesa hotel shelter for approx. 8 weeks.

Off the streets, COVID-homeless, urban camping or in very unstable and unhealthy housing.

Introduction to structure. A time for making commitment to work hard and accepting services.

- Immediate Shelter
- Food, Clothing, Hygiene
- Healthcare, medicine
- Counselling for substance abuse and/or mental health
- Victim safety
- Self-policing and positive community
- ID's, Phone, Mail, Transit
- · Community Court





1-2 month short stays. Success cases only. Connections to longer-term rent assistance and housing vouchers.

Demonstrated success. Has held a job for at least one month. Drug Free, Crime Free. Time to practice independence.

- · Reduced structure
- Job and credit history
- Shopping for affordable rental housing
- Counselling, healthcare, medications





Graduating from voucher and rent assistance program to pursue selfsufficiency via affordable housing, market-rate rental, even home ownership.

Continued reduction of welfare dependency. Start of accumulating wealth.

- · Private housing
- Down payment assist.
- Loans and reduced rates mortgages
- Tailored supportive services.



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Common field scenarios.

No one size fits all in these complex, human issues. Goal is to use sound judgment with knowledge and seamless access to resources and options available.

- School district or Mesa nonprofit intervention or referral.
- Individual refuses help and has no interest in recovery.
- Family living in their car discovered by PD.
- Urban camping on public or private property or right-of-way.
- Library or park patrons complain; issues with public use and enjoyment of public assets.
- Individual at Mesa City Plaza/City Center, loudly complaining that leads to nuisance complaints.
- In temporary "off the streets" housing but not following the rules.
- How does Mesa connect people with mental or behavioral health issues to service?

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Next steps

- Public reviews within Housing Master Plan process
 - HMP to City Council in December 2020
- Published as evolving strategy and policy tool
 - Updated as needed and/or within HMP updates