



Health and Safety  
for Mesa and its Homeless

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2022

mesa·az

**City Council Study Session – October 29, 2020**  
Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager



# Health and Safety for Mesa and its Homeless

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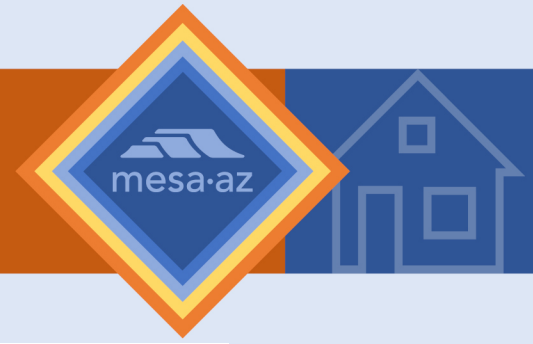
- **Today's presentation**

- 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

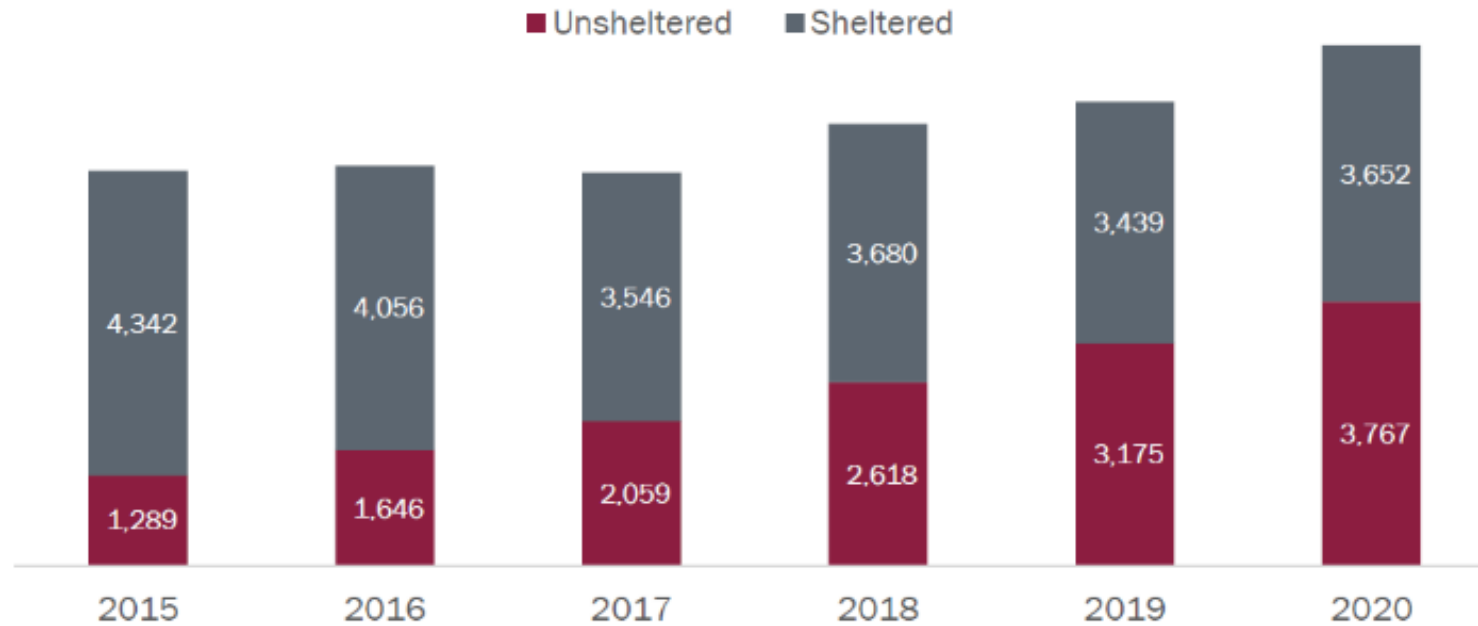


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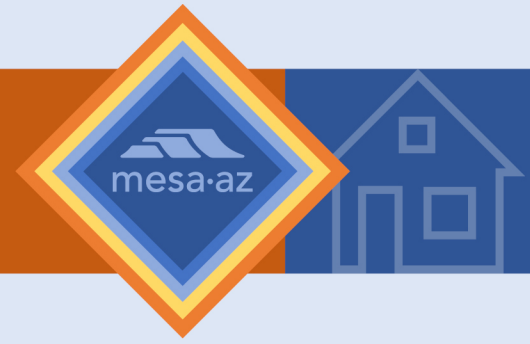
## Homeless Count Overview - Maricopa County, AZ



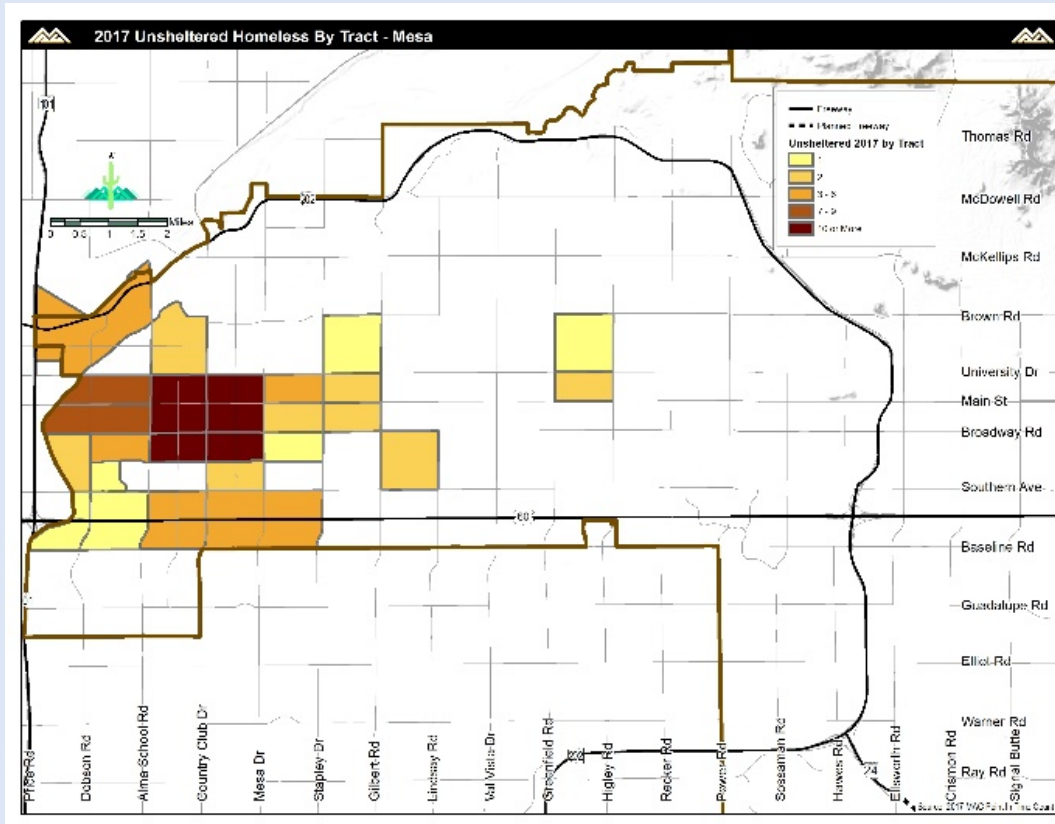
Source: Maricopa Association of Governments 2020 Point-in-time Count Report.  
<https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>

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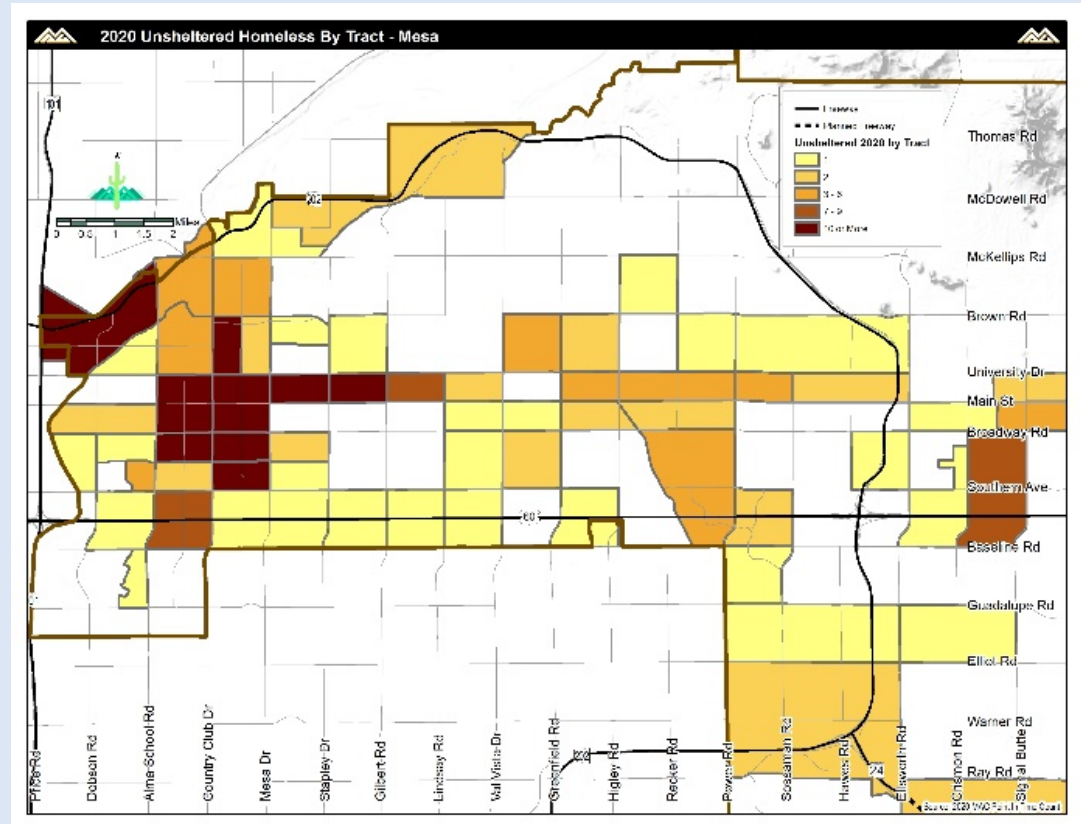
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## Unsheltered-- 2017



## Unsheltered-- 2020







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**A section within Mesa's Housing Master Plan**



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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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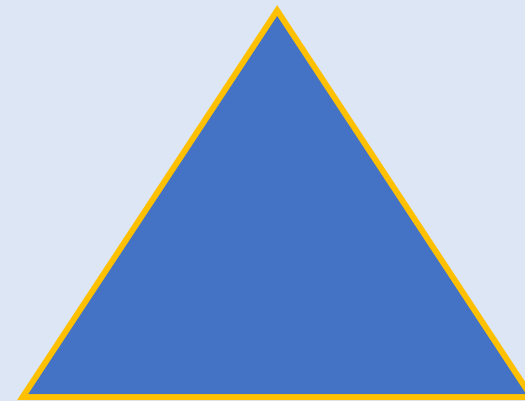
## Strategies for use of public funds

- Prioritize funding for Mesa-based service outcomes
- Continue service navigation, cross-departmental partnerships
- Continue Housing Our Heroes– Veteran Affairs Support Housing (VASH) vouchers
- Seek stability and path to recovery and jobs training and placement

**Housing**

**Support  
Services**

**Job  
placement**





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## Strategies to work regionally

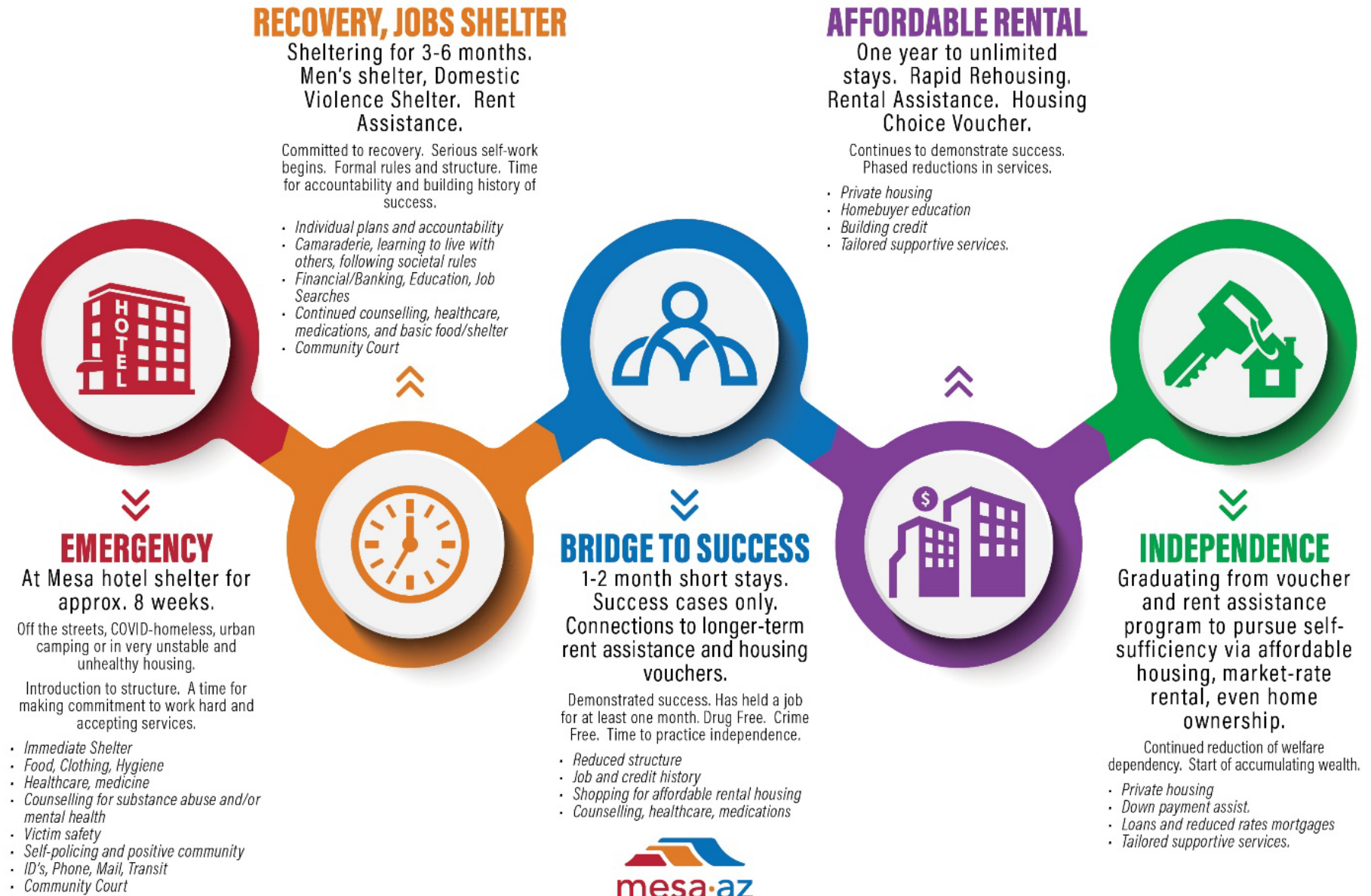
- Funding set aside
- At the table; influencers
- Advocacy at regional and state levels
- Regional means equity in sharing service impacts

## Strategies-- transparency

- Data Portal
- Communications strategy



# Strategy: Housing Path to Recovery





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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