

Mobilizing the Regional Response to Homelessness: *Action Plan Development*

June 2021

Mesa Council Meeting



Topics

- ▶ What are we building?
- ▶ Why are we doing this?
- ▶ How are we doing this?
- ▶ What are the next steps?

What are we building?

Focus

- **Through a coordinated, regional approach, build an action plan that:**
 - Reduces the number of people experiencing homelessness.
 - Increases access to homeless assistance programs throughout the entire region.
 - Keeps people housed during and after the pandemic.

Many Thanks to All Our Partners:

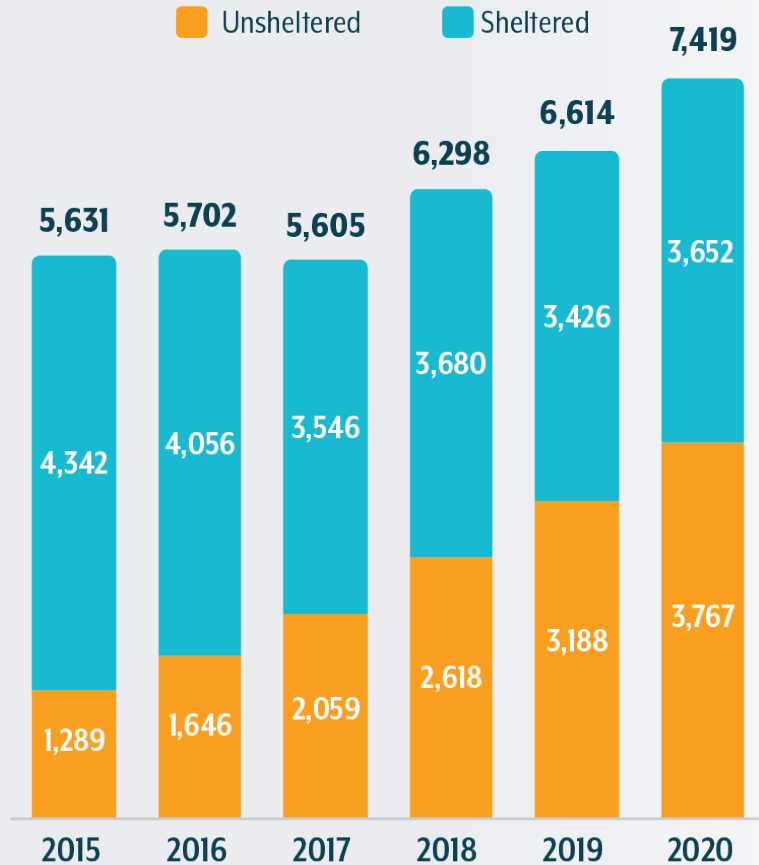
- Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care.
- Nonprofit agencies such as Save the Family and Mesa United Way.
- Regional Collaborative on Homelessness.
- Solari Crisis and Human Services.
- MAG member agencies, including the municipal Human Services and intergovernmental staff.
- Forum, survey, and strategy session participants; speakers; and planning teams.
- People with lived experience.
- MAG human services, RAD, and policy teams.
- Applied Economics.
- Arizona Housing Coalition.
- HomeBase.
- Corporation for Supportive Housing.
- Arizona Town Hall.
- Focus Strategies.

Why are we doing this?



Overall Point in Time (PIT) Count Rising for the Past 4 Years

Total PIT Count, 2015-2020



Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care
PIT Count, 2015-2020

Growth Rate from 2019-2020

Total PIT Count

+12%

Unsheltered Count

+18%

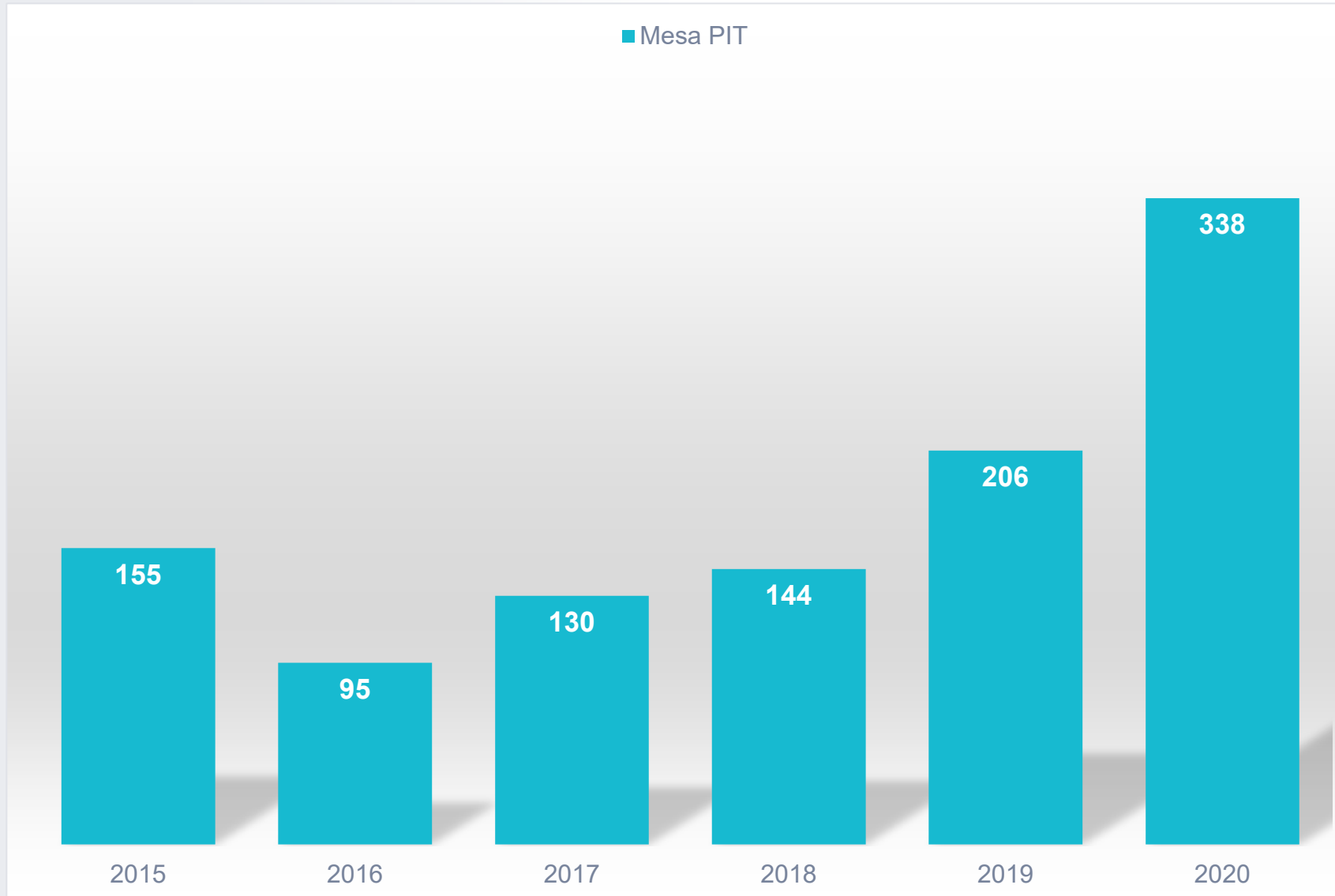
Sheltered Count

+7%

The unsheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the sheltered and overall PIT Count.

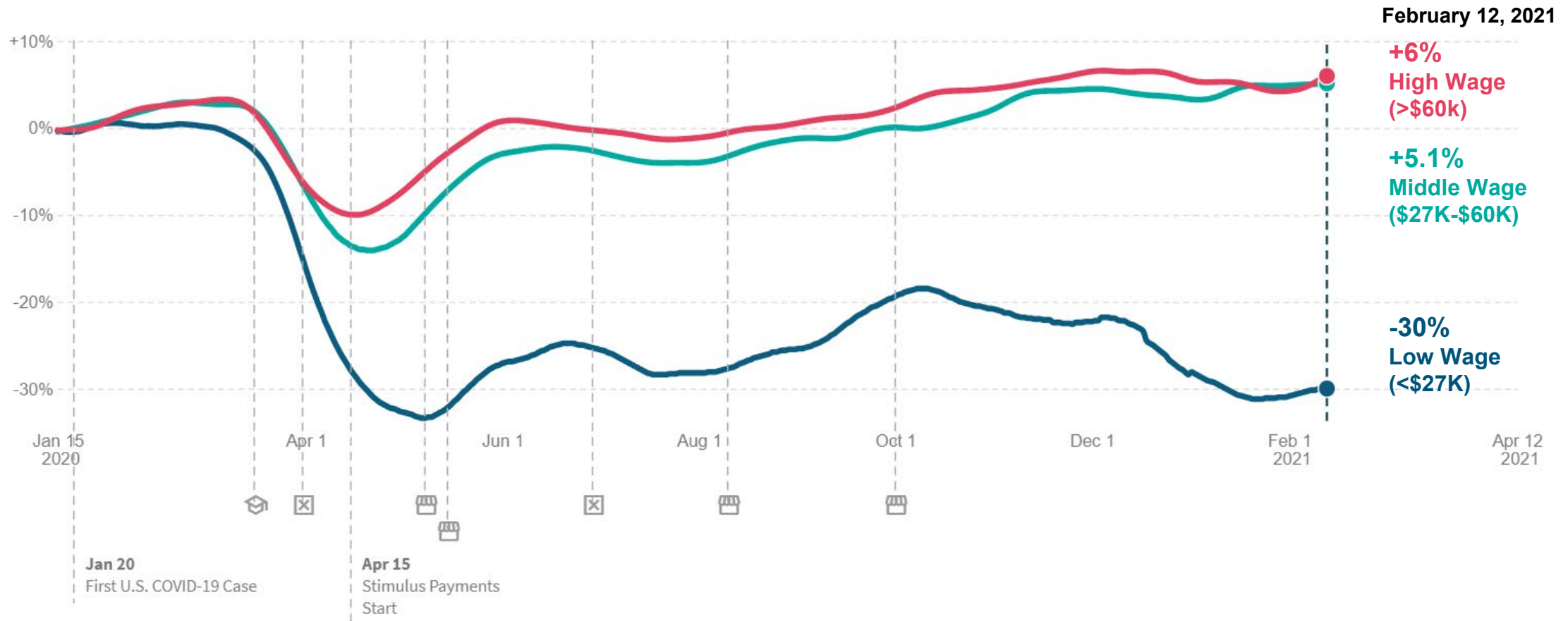


Point in Time (PIT) Unsheltered Count Rising in Mesa



Low Wage Workers Disproportionately Impacted- 30% of Jobs Lost

Percent Change in Employment*, Phoenix/Mesa Metro



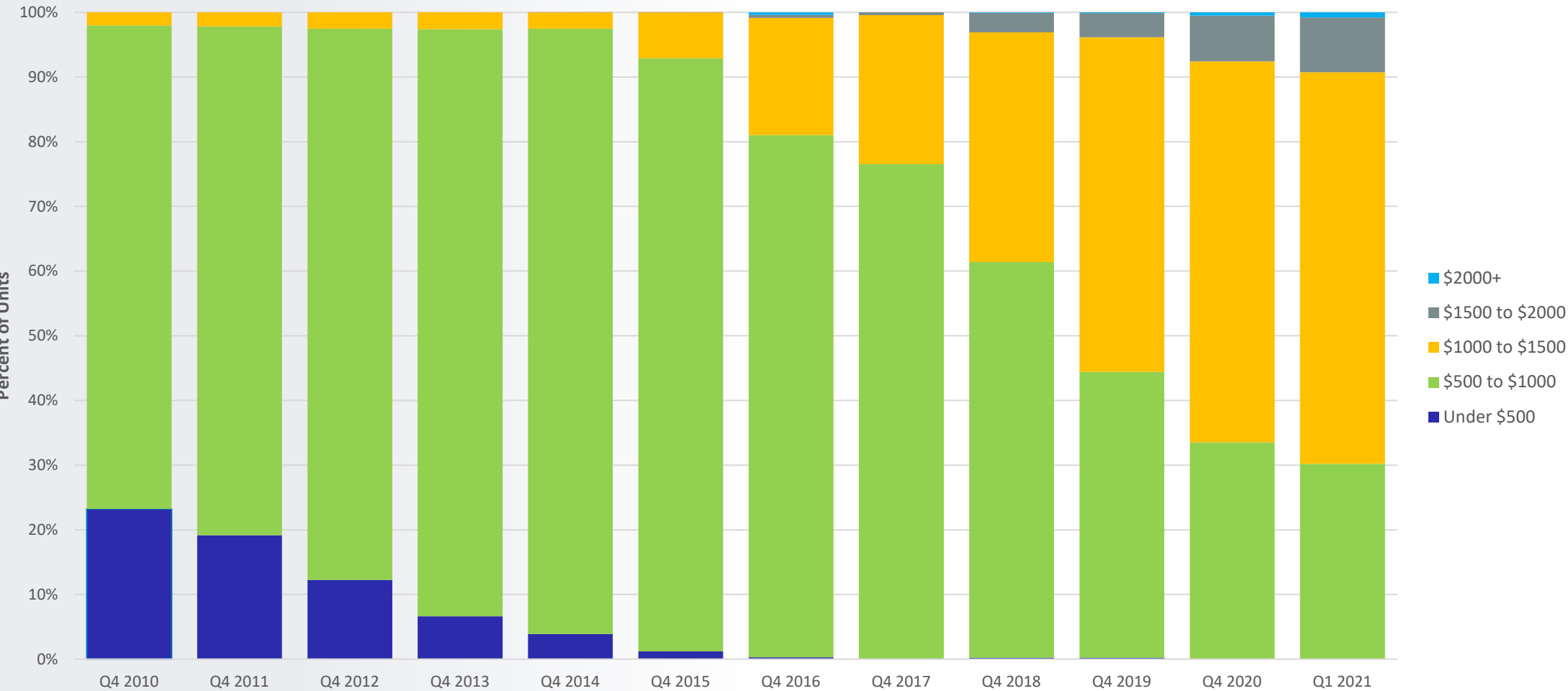
Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker, tracktherecovery.org April 2021

*Change in employment rates (not seasonally adjusted), indexed to January 4-31, 2020. This series is based on payroll data from Paychex and Intuit, worker-level data on employment and earnings from Earning, and timesheet data from Kronos.



In the City of Mesa, availability of apartment units with rent under \$1,000 has decreased by more than 60% in the past 10 years.

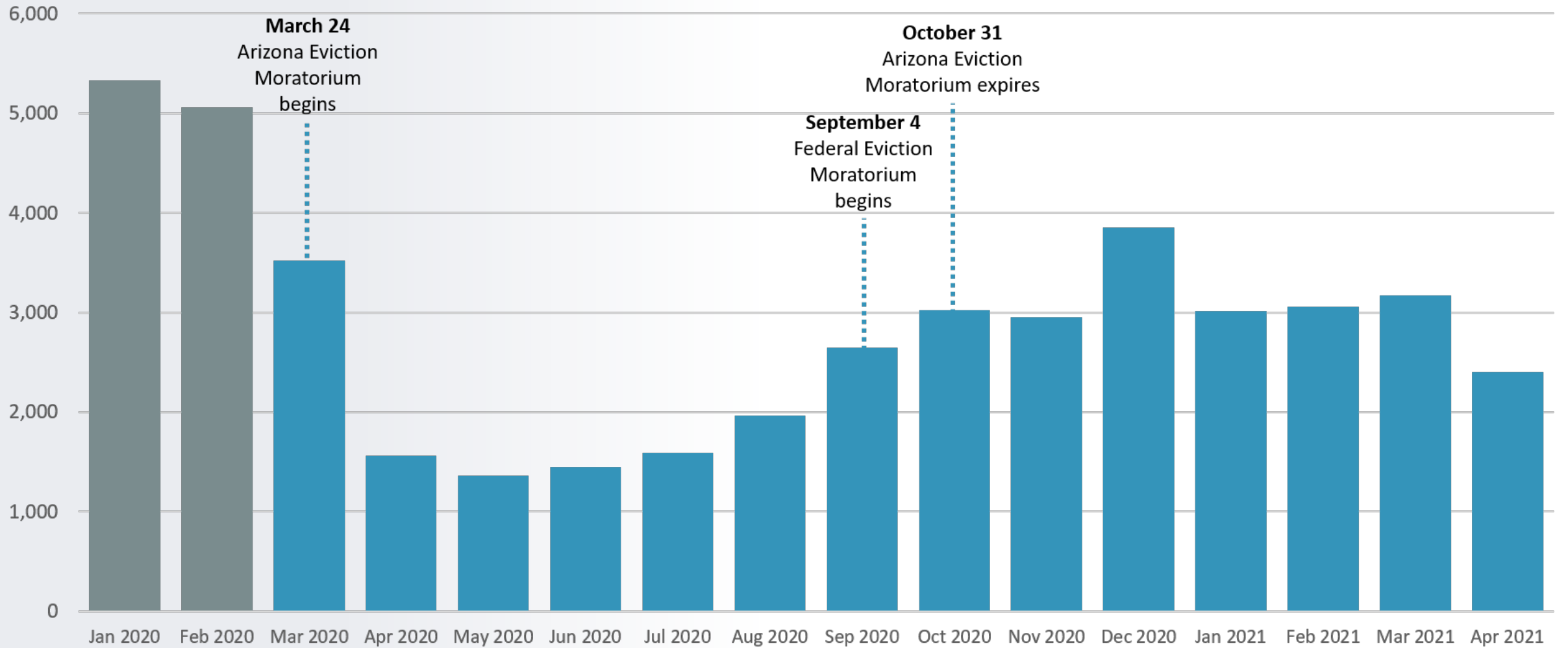
Apartment Rents, 2010-2021



Source: RealData, Inc.

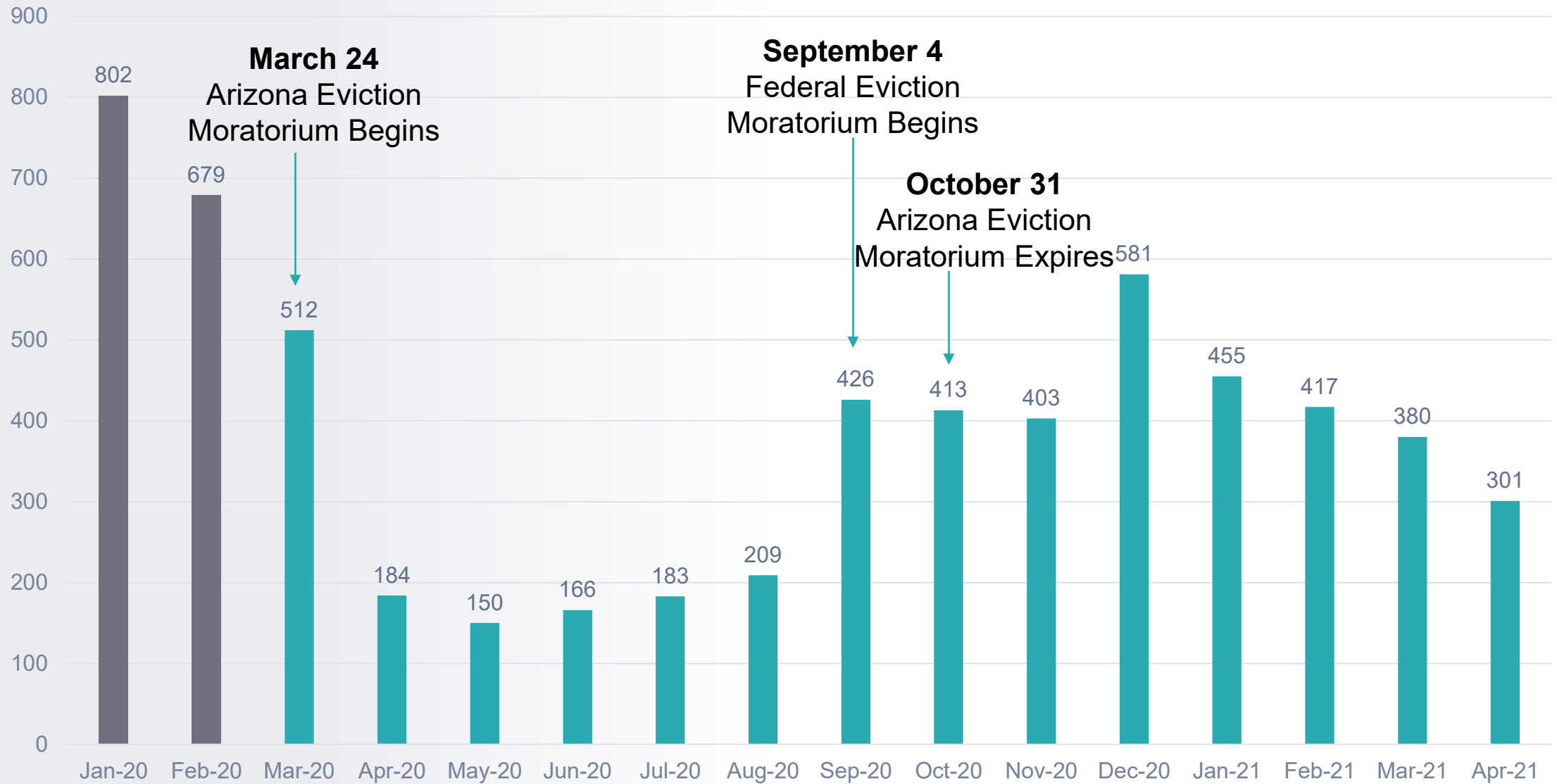


Maricopa County Evictions, 2020-2021 **-55%**



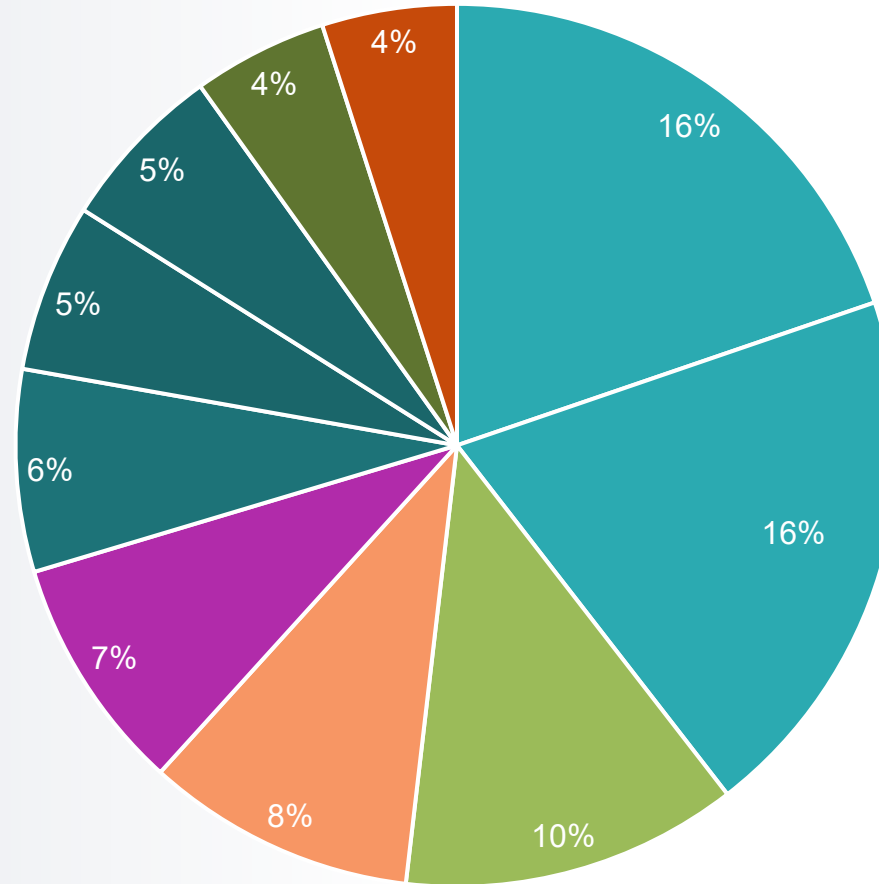
Source: Maricopa County Justice Courts

Mesa Evictions, 2020-2021 -62%



Self-reported Reasons for Homelessness

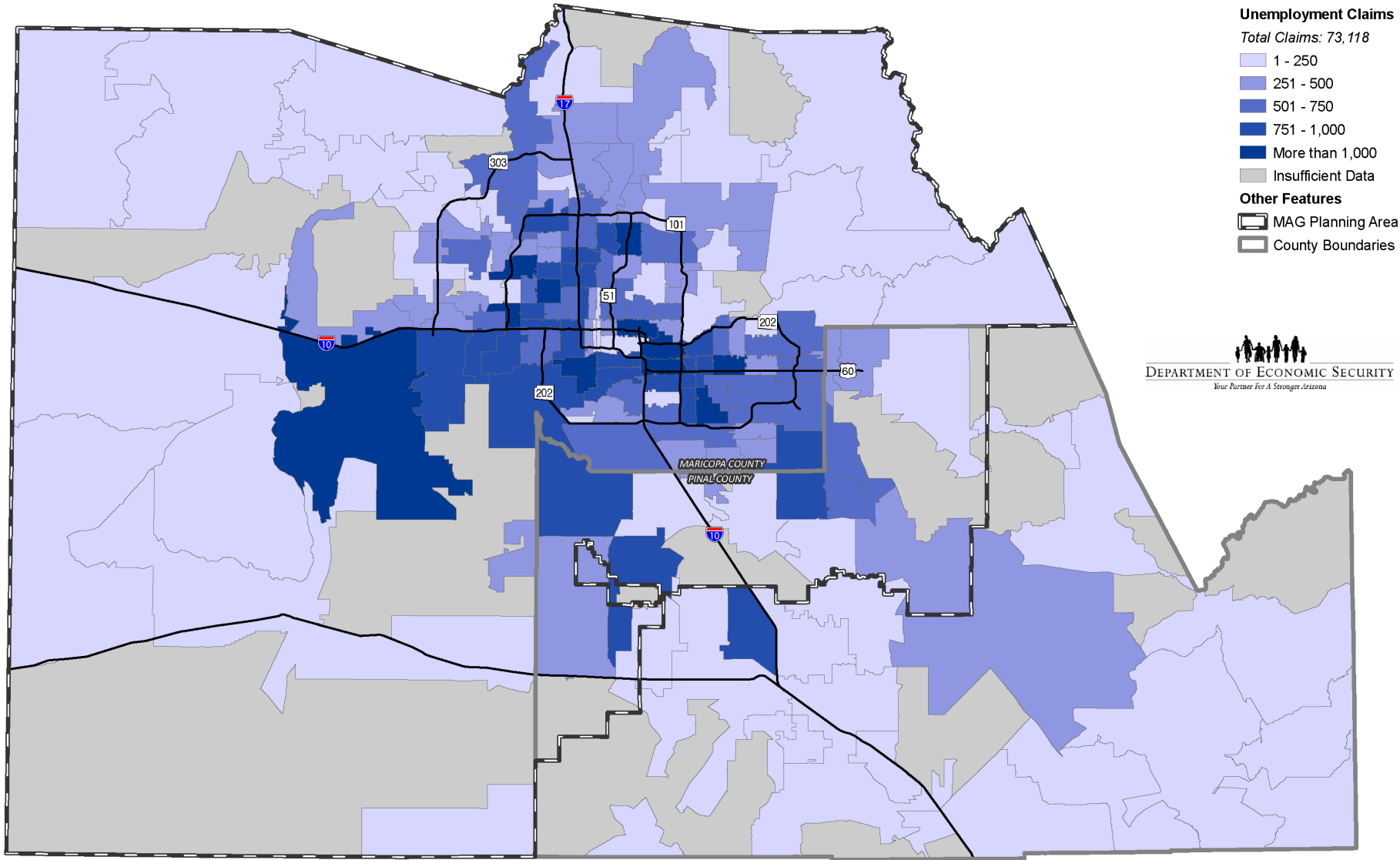
May 2020-April 2021



■ Family dispute ■ Economic ■ Eviction ■ Lost job ■ New to area
■ Violence/abuse ■ Substance use ■ Mental health ■ Medical ■ Jail/prison release

Top 10 reasons self-reported by clients who stayed in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs during this time period, per HMIS.

Total Claimants Issued Benefits in the Phoenix MSA by Zip Code, April 7 to May 6, 2021



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (May 2021)

Unemployment

Benefits Paid

Unemployment Insurance Recipients, April 7 to May 6, 2021

- ▶ **Arizona:** 114,786
- ▶ **Phoenix/Mesa Metro:** 73,118
- ▶ **Mesa:** 7,971

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Total Initial Claims

March 14, 2020 to May 6, 2021

- ▶ **Arizona:** 948,700
- ▶ **Phoenix/Mesa Metro:** 649,884
- ▶ **Mesa:** 71,057

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

<https://azmag.gov/Unemployment-Claims>

Mesa: Vulnerable Households

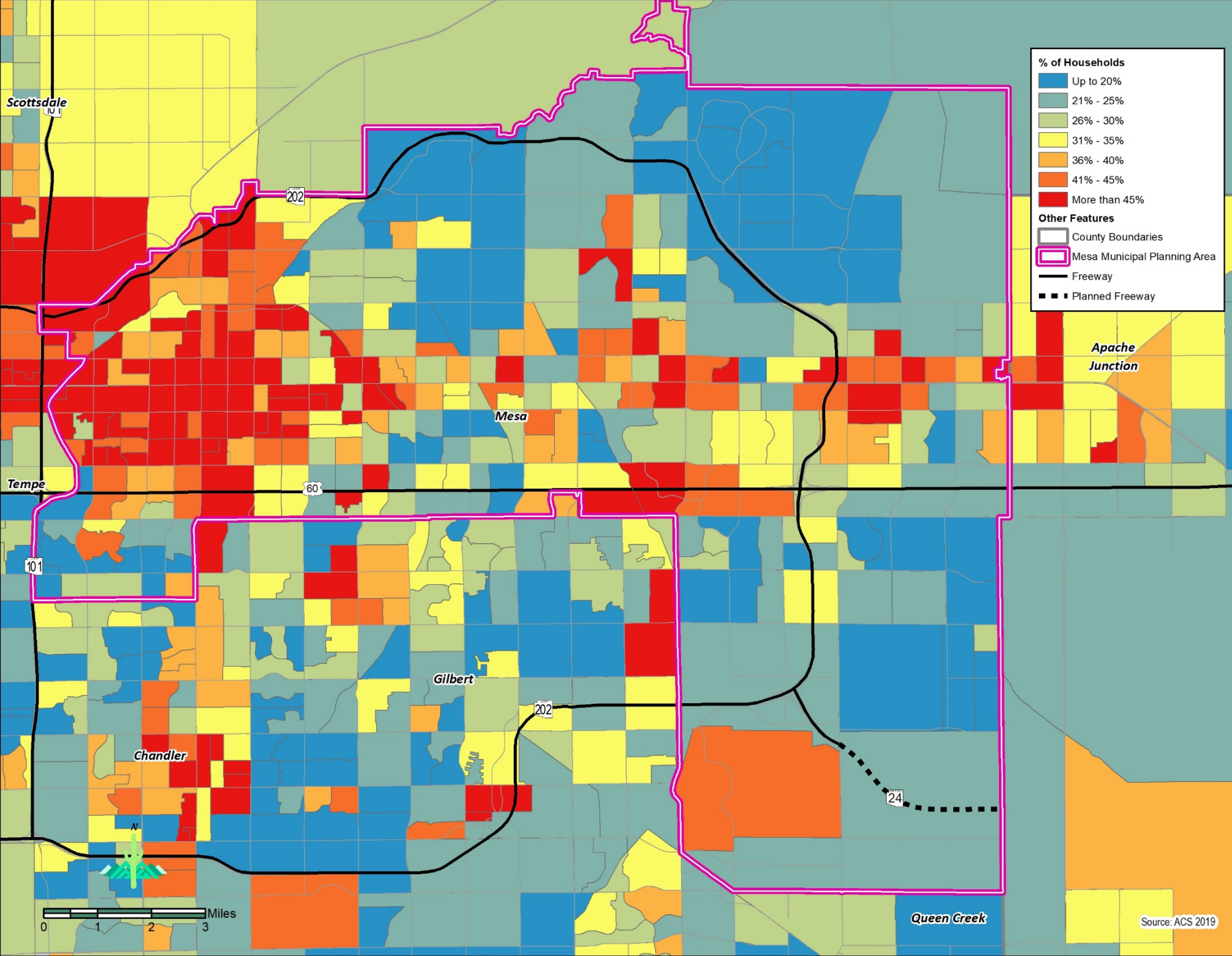
Income Spent on Housing

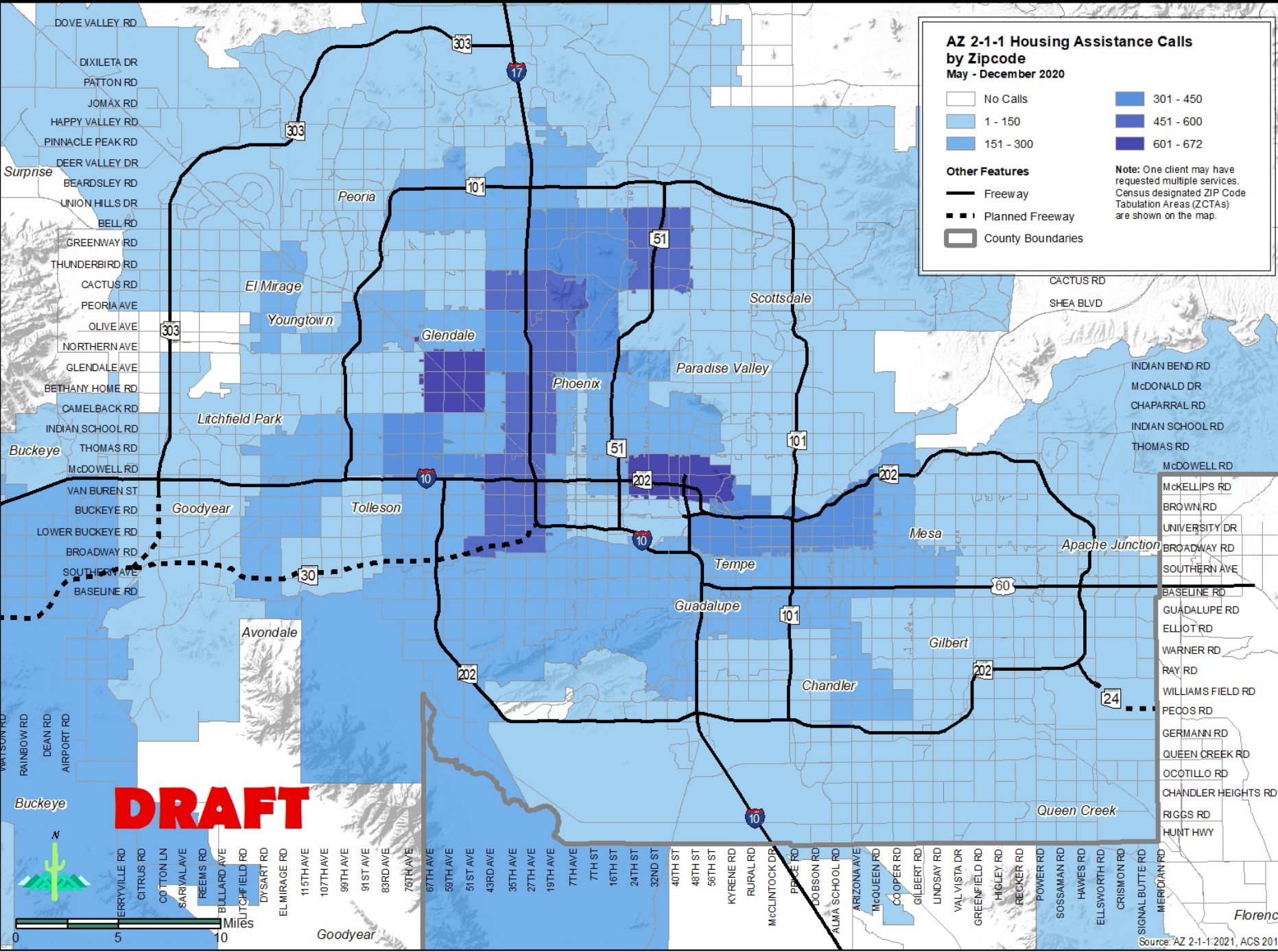
- 58,000 households spend more than 30%
 - 32% of 181,130
- 26,000 households spend more than 50%
 - 14% of 181,130

Households spending over 30%:

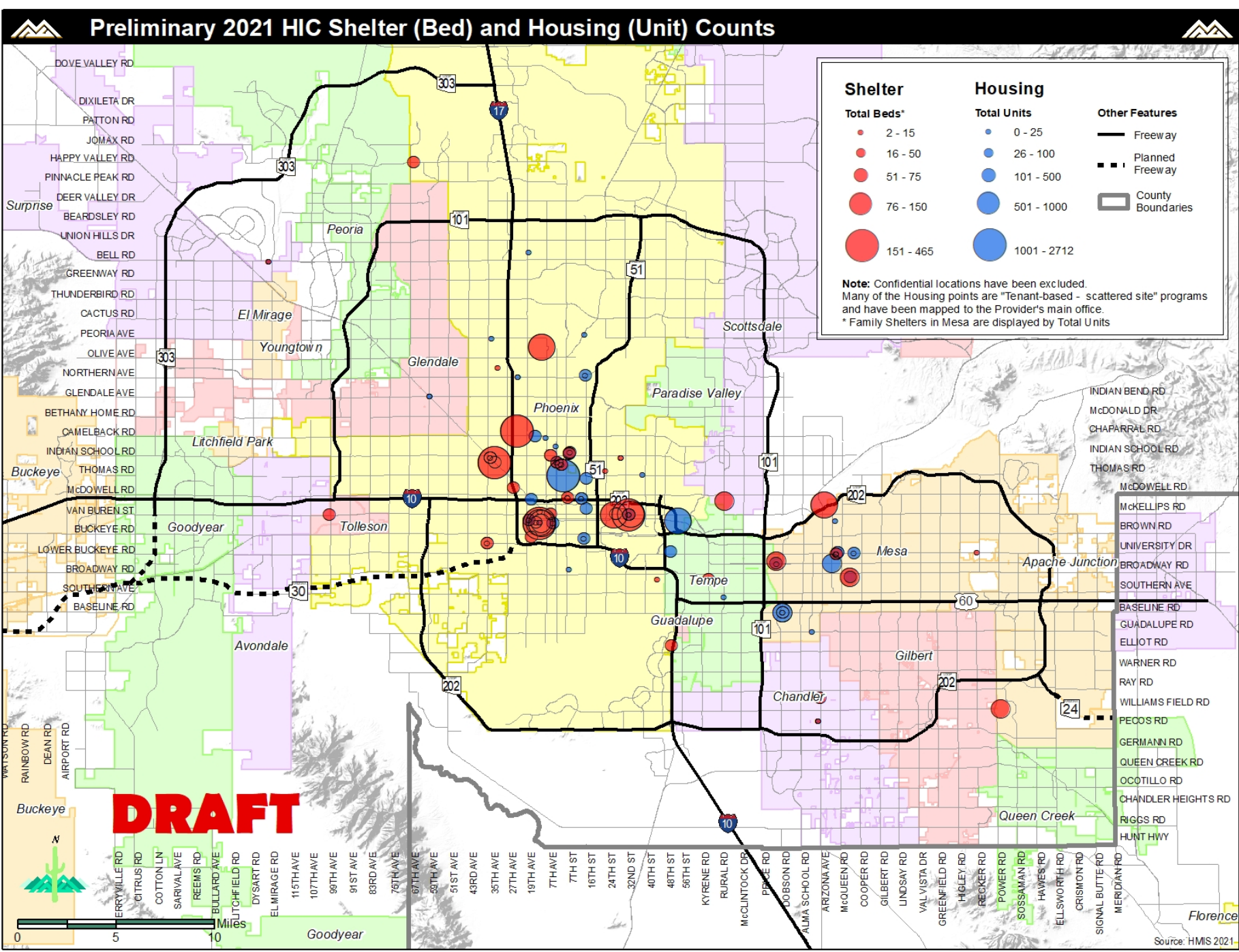
- ▶ **96%** are households with income below \$75k
- ▶ **84%** are households with income below \$50k

Source: American Community Survey (2015-2019)





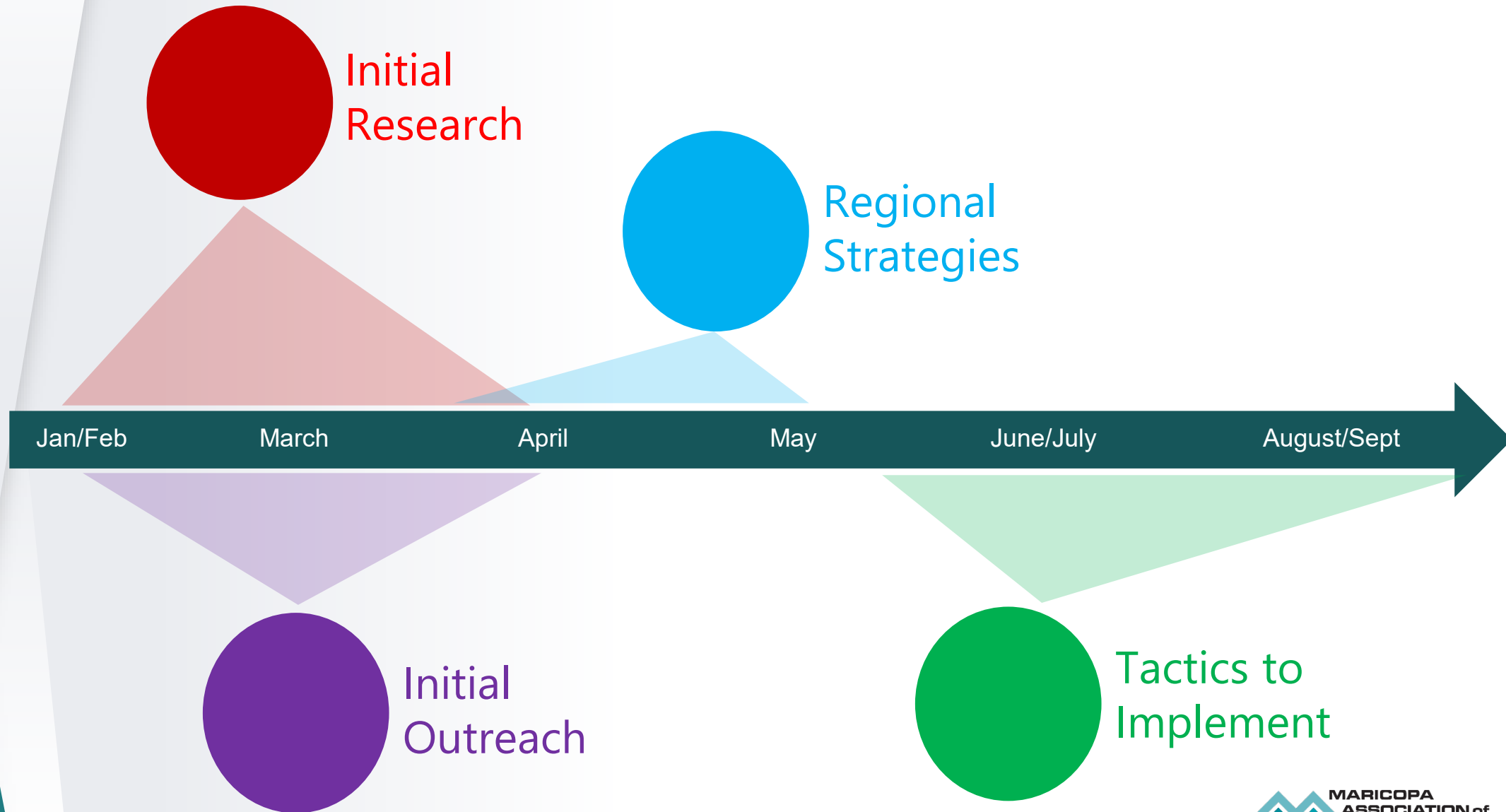
Arizona 2-1-1 Calls Requesting Housing Assistance



Preliminary 2021 Housing Inventory Chart Data for Shelter (Bed and Housing Unit) Counts

How are we doing this?

Regional Response Timeline



Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** All communities in the region are strong, safe and healthy communities.
- **Mission:** Reduce and prevent homelessness through collaboration across all sectors, making homelessness rare, brief, and one time.

Regional Process to Develop Strategies



Outreach

Regional Homelessness Forum on Housing

Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Faith Forum on Regional Homelessness

Thursday,
Feb. 25, 2021



Business Forum on Regional Homelessness

Thursday, March 11, 2021



MUNICIPAL STAFF FORUM ON REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS EVENT AGENDA

MARCH 30, 2021; 2-4 P.M.

#PartneringToEndHomelessness



Forums: 700+ people and key sector partners

- Forum with CEOs of homeless shelter and service providers.
- Two forums with nonprofit staff to accommodate different shifts.
- Housing Forum.
- Business Forum.
- Faith Community Forum.
- Domestic Violence Shelter and Service Provider Forum.
- Philanthropy Forum.
- Municipal Staff Forum.
- Elected Official Forum.
- Capstone event.

Surveys


- Field surveys with persons with lived experience: 163+ surveys collected to date.
- Online survey with law enforcement about role and training needs: 280 surveys completed.
- Online survey with first responders about role and training needs: 268 surveys completed.
- Post-event surveys with all forum participants about satisfaction with the forum and to gather additional input about questions in forum.
- Survey to all forum participants to select top three priority strategies.

Data Analysis

Advancing Health and Equity through Workforce Housing

a compilation of STRATEGIES, TOOLS, AND EXAMPLES covering a range of potential solutions for increasing healthy and equitable affordable workforce housing in the Phoenix metro region

Written by Joanna Carl
Research and Policy Director, Arizona Housing Coalition




Arizona Housing Coalition

Arizona Housing Coalition
Serving the Home and Place

Best Practice Toolkit for Municipalities, for Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing in Arizona

Written by Joanna Carl
Research and Policy Director, Arizona Housing Coalition



EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE CASE STUDY

Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System's COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Prevention Program

Background
In response to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn, Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System, a coalition of 10 local organizations led by the Department of Housing and Community Development, launched the COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Prevention Program (EHP) in March 2020. The program is designed to provide \$10 million in emergency rental assistance to help households with low income (income at or below 80% of area median income) who are unable to pay their rent. The program is designed to help households with low income (income at or below 80% of area median income) who are unable to pay their rent. The program is designed to help households with low income (income at or below 80% of area median income) who are unable to pay their rent.

Key Program Outcomes
The Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System (SCCHPS) is a coalition of 10 local organizations led by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The SCCHPS is designed to provide \$10 million in emergency rental assistance to help households with low income (income at or below 80% of area median income) who are unable to pay their rent. The program is designed to help households with low income (income at or below 80% of area median income) who are unable to pay their rent.

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S HOUSING 2020

JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report

Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

7,419 people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County on the night of January 27, 2020

49% Unsheltered
51% Sheltered

Total PIT Count, 2015-2020

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
2015	1,883	5,762	7,645
2016	1,883	5,762	7,645
2017	1,883	5,762	7,645
2018	1,883	5,762	7,645
2019	1,883	5,762	7,645
2020	1,883	5,762	7,645

Growth Rate from 2019-2020

Category	Growth Rate
Total PIT Count	+12%
Unsheltered Count	+16%
Sheltered Count	+7%

One Crisis Away

Rethinking Housing Stability for Arizonans on the Margin

David Schleier
Alison Cook-DeVie, Ph.D.
Benedit Springer, Ph.D.
Kira Olsen Medina
Alex Tam

ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy

Crisis Response NETWORK *helping people*

City of Tempe

RACIAL EQUITY

in data and service provision in Maricopa County

Nicky Stevens and TJ Reed

COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, Arizona

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research

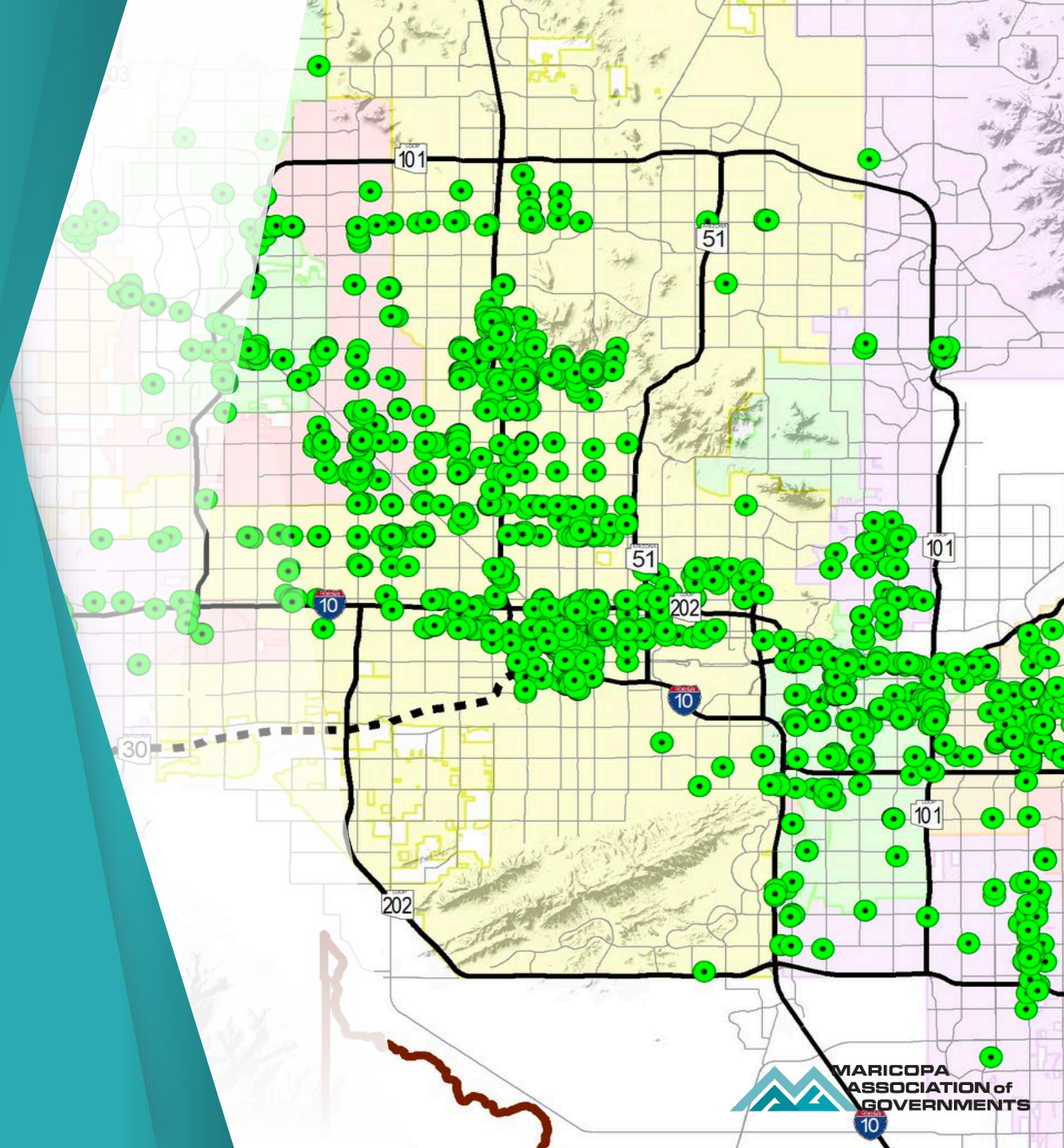
As of July 1, 2020



Research Conducted

- Extensive **literature review**.
- **Inventory** of 300 local plans, strategies and priorities.
- **National research** into 37 of the most effective regional strategies.
- Ongoing **analysis of funding** sources, eligible activities, and possible partnerships.
- Study of considerations to take into account when **siting** new homeless shelter, services and housing.
- **Expenditure analysis** of 20 municipal budgets for revenue sources and allocations.

Regional Strategies



Emerging Strategies in Regional Portfolio



Diversion/Prevention.



Housing.



Coordination.



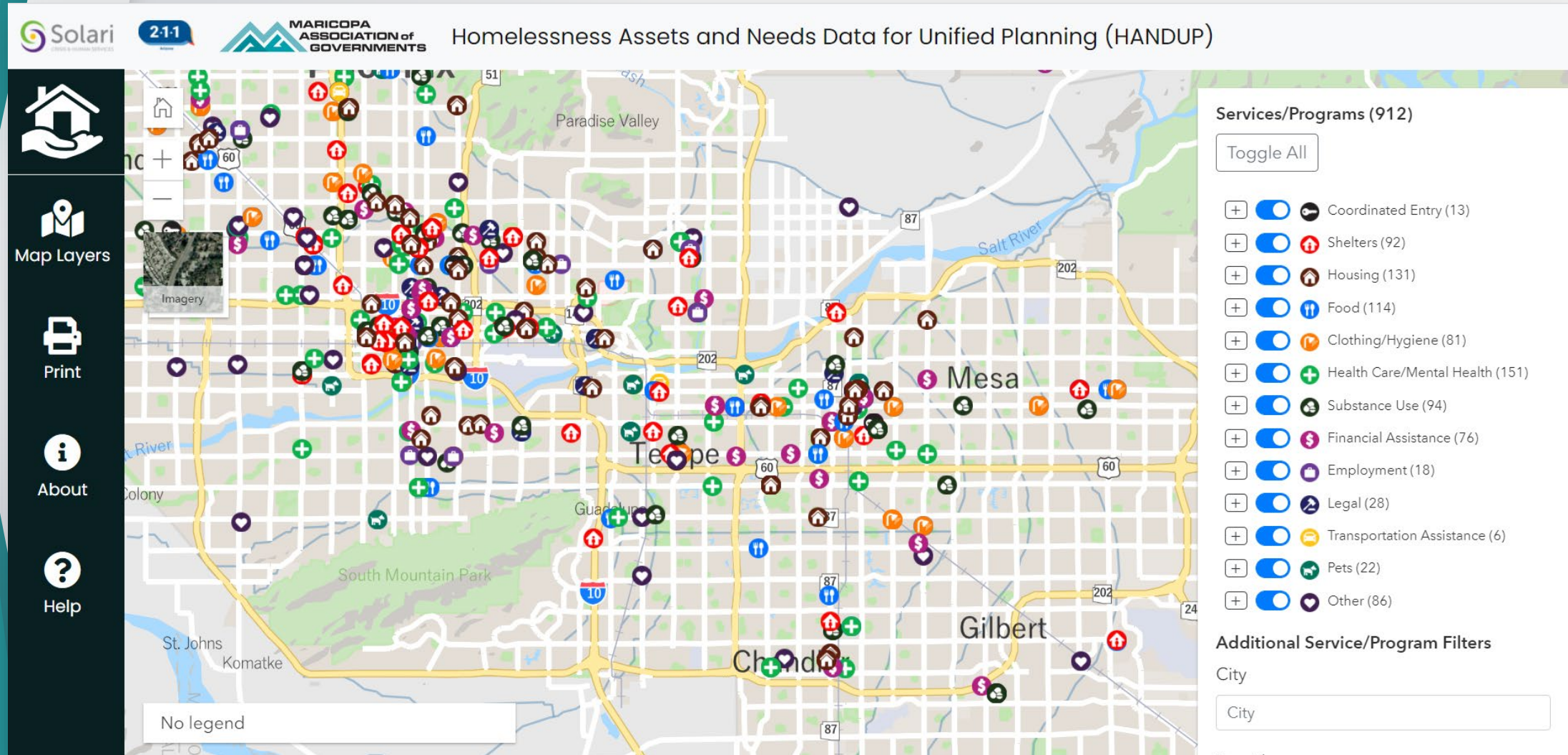
Services.



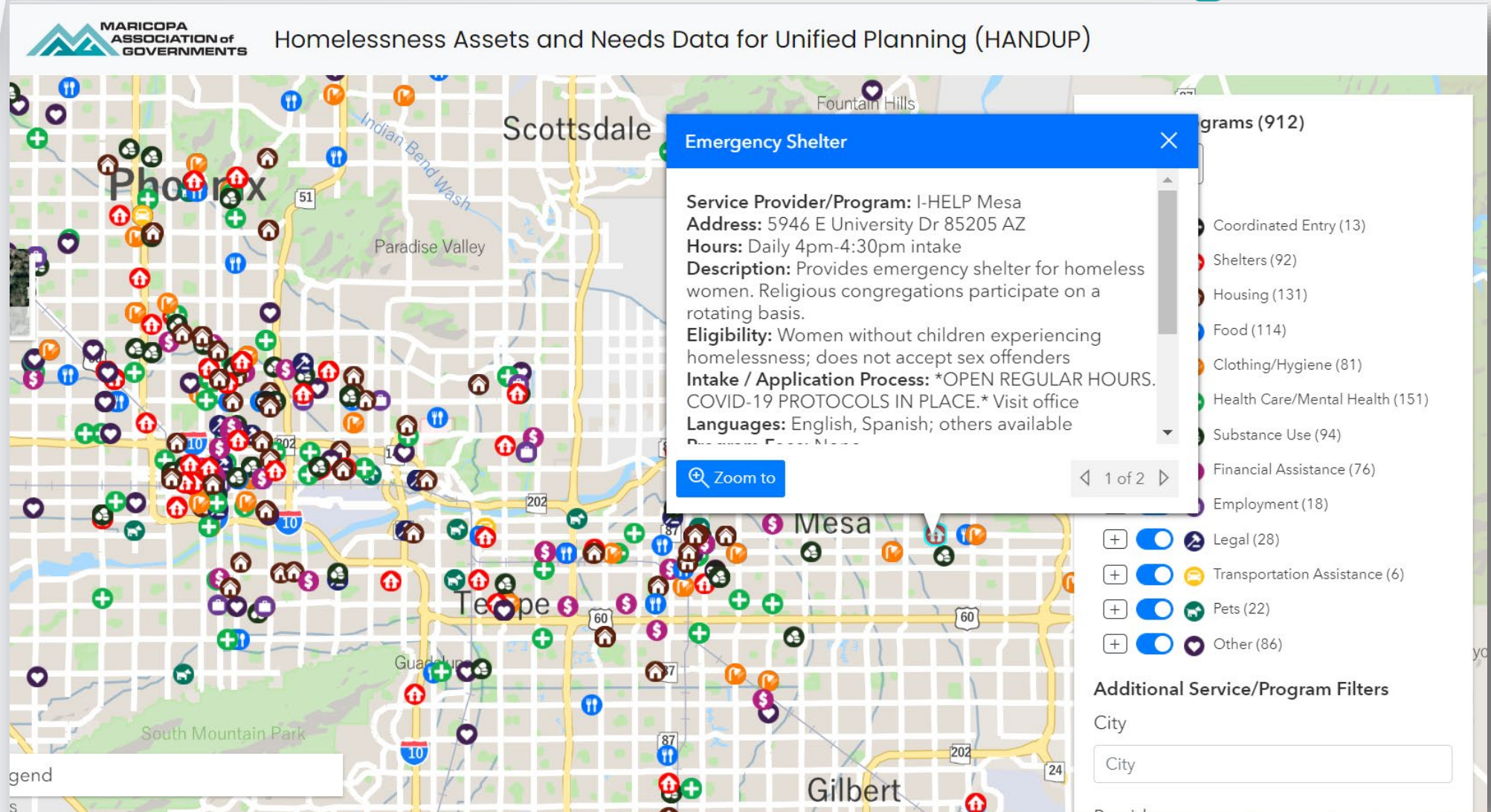
Temporary Housing.

What are the next steps?

HANDUP- Homelessness Assets and Needs Data for Unified Planning



HANDUP- Homelessness Assets and Needs Data for Unified Planning



<https://geo.azmag.gov/maps/HomelessServices/>

Next Steps

- Develop **regional funding targets and scenarios** by:
 - Projecting the number of housing units, shelter beds and diversion services needed regionally.
 - Conducting a cost analysis for the tactics and strategies.
- Finetune the **HANDUP** homelessness assets and needs planning tool.
- Analyze and integrate findings from the **capstone event**.
- Develop an **action plan** for approval.
 - (June) Complete the regional scenarios analysis.
 - (July-August) Support communities in identifying tactics relevant to needs of their housed and unhoused residents.
 - (September-October) Identify additional actions needed to ensure ownership throughout the region.

For More Information

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Maricopa Association of Governments

astpeter@azmag.gov; 602-452-5049

<https://azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness>



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Existing Services and Concepts

May 2020-June 2021

Homelessness and Workforce Development



\$44,841,267

Housing Path to Recovery– Homeless-related Pandemic Support and Recovery

Mar 2020- June 2021

\$39,630,581



≡
**TEMPORARY
HOUSING**

\$1,357,074

**SHELTER
HOUSING**



≡
**BRIDGE
HOUSING**

\$3,853,612

**AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**



≡
**SELF -
SUFFICIENCY**

**Commit to
Recovery**

**Structure
and Skills**

Stability

Diversion Prevention

Mesa

EXISTING STRATEGIES

Emergency vouchers

Rent and Utility Assistance

Use of hotels for temporary,
rapid placement

CONCEPTS BEING EXPLORED

Diversion specialists to prevent
evictions and divert families to
transitional/bridge housing

Diversion: Bridge housing

Diversion: Landlord incentive
program

Housing Mesa



EXISTING STRATEGIES

Emergency vouchers, Rent and Utility Assistance and rehab funding

Use of hotels as emergency placement

Supporting local shelters; federal funding

Balanced Housing Plan—w/General Plan Update

CONCEPTS BEING EXPLORED

Bridge housing options (families, foster aged-out youth, single men)

Workforce Development/Jobs Access Center—skilling up people.

Advocacy for State Housing Trust Fund; National Housing as Infrastructure

Temporary Housing Mesa

EXISTING STRATEGIES

Emergency vouchers

Rent and Utility Assistance

Use of hotels as emergency
placement (Off-the-Streets)

Support domestic violence
shelters

CONCEPTS BEING EXPLORED

Landlord incentive program

Diversion program/eviction
vulnerable

Workforce Development/Jobs
Access Center and regional
coordination

Bridge housing options

Services Mesa



EXISTING STRATEGIES

CONCEPTS BEING EXPLORED

Navigation, Outreach

Diversion Program

Fund non-profits: Shelters, Food/Meals, clothing, showers, basic needs, transit, pet care, financial planning, job training

Workforce development jobs access center

Safety— libraries, parks, urban camping enforcement, emergency medical, crisis/mental health, community court, encampment cleanups

Removing or increasing CDBG Public Service Cap

Support smaller agencies via human service funding

Supporting early childhood education and higher learning

Coordination Mesa



EXISTING STRATEGIES

Regional action planning;
align Mesa's strategic plan
with regional plan/terms.

Rent and Utility Assistance
(Mesa and Mesa CAN)

Use of hotels as emergency
placement (Mesa and Mesa United
Way)

Mayor-CEOs– national
strategies and advocacy–
homeless, housing

CONCEPTS BEING EXPLORED

Landlord incentive program
(Local and regional strategy)

Coordination with eviction
lawyers, Constables– eviction
prevention safety net (local and
regional)

Regional by-name listing and
coordination; regional public
outreach/education.

Consider racial disparities; input
from those who are homeless
(local and regional)



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