



PIMA COUNTY
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
& HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

Update on County Initiatives to Address Homelessness and Public Safety

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Solutions

Priorities of the Office of Housing Opportunities & Homeless Solutions

Priority No. 1: Inventory existing County and partner programs addressing homeless / at-risk populations.

Priority No. 2: Describe and illustrate the homeless response system and care coordination.

Priority No. 3: Develop County and public facing communication strategies to enable individuals to understand where and how to access information and resources.



Priority No. 4: Develop a Strategic and Continuous Improvement Plan with the goal of ensuring County programming is responsive, sustainable, and equitably distributed.

Priority No. 5: Develop means of tracking the efficacy of County assistance programs and work with departments and partner agencies and governments to develop attainable measure of success.

Progress of the Shelter Feasibility Study & Work Plan

Evaluation of Challenges

- Underutilized shelter beds
- Diverse needs of individuals
- Coordination of access

Opportunities

- Evaluation of effective models
- Locally available resources

Development of Recommendations to Inform a Work Plan

- Addressing system improvement
- Increasing access to low-barrier settings
- County, jurisdictional partners and community stakeholders

Review of National Trends

Challenges

- Rising rates of homelessness
- Lack of affordable housing
- Increase in human crisis (mental health / addiction)
- Increase number of states / municipalities passing camping bans

Strategies / Trends

- Bifurcated approach
 - Episodic / Economic vs Chronic Homelessness
- Upstream strategies
 - Prevention
- Increase multi-disciplinary approach to street outreach
- Connecting care at crisis point as transition to housing

State & Local Trends

Arizona

- Phoenix, Flagstaff
 - Safe outdoor spaces, hotel to shelter / housing conversions
- Sedona
 - Safe Place to Park / November of 2024

TPCH / local Continuum of Care

- Continuum of Care Funding
- Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity Housing Central Command

City of Tucson

- Housing First Department
 - Low-barrier Shelter: Wildcat Inn / Amphi

Pima County

- Emergency Eviction Legal Services (EELS) & Craycroft Shelter
- Healthy Companion Clinic / mobile health support
- Transition Center
- Gap Funding for Affordable Housing

Shelter System Constraints



System Complications

No uniform or standard process
to access shelter



Shelter Occupancy

90-day length of stay
Utilization trends vary



Shelter ≠ Housing

Few if any shelters have any
access to housing subsidies /
programs

System Challenges

- Siloed systems
 - Crisis
 - Shelter
 - Housing & Housing Supports
- No uniform strategy or regional objective
- Congested housing system
 - Lack of movement between shelter to housing
- Lack of critical “hub” to centralize and support navigation from unsheltered settings to care and / or shelter

Developing Recommendations....

System Efficiency Improvements:

- Address strategies to transition individuals / families to permanent housing from low-barrier.
 - Individuals / families who are “timing out” of shelter.
 - Creates needed opening in existing, in-demand low-barrier shelters.
- Centralize support of information on shelter bed availability.
 - Shelter Hub
- Support for transitioning from shelter to housing.

Strategic Street Outreach and Mobile Crisis Teams:

- Multidisciplinary teams (medical, substance use, and behavioral health professionals) to engage unsheltered individuals.
- Address crises to while navigating individuals to appropriate resources.
- Create support “hub” for resource referral, care coordination / navigation.

Developing a Work Plan: What's Next

- Regional Dialogue
 - Create a common goal
 - Create accountability and expanded participation in addressing challenges
- TPCH Survey on Strategic Plan
 - Goes before TPCH General Council for review and adoption
- Pima County Regional Affordable Housing Commission
 - Housing Strategy for Households Exiting Homelessness
 - FY2025/26 Funding Recommendations to the Board
 - ECONorthwest Housing Study
 - Regional Housing Strategy & Funding Plan end of December 2025



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Questions