



Providing Home Sharing in Pima County, Arizona

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Pima Council on Aging (PCOA), with funding from the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Tucson, commissioned a feasibility study on home sharing programs nationwide and the prospects of beginning a program in Pima County. Home sharing has emerged as a relatively low-cost and immediate way to create sustainable long-term housing options for older adults.

This program is essentially a roommate matching service, but rather than just splitting rent and utilities between the two parties, greater consideration is taken as to the needs of the families, companionship, financial stability, and supportive services. For instance, a home sharing program might look like an older person who has a three-bedroom house but requires assistance with landscaping or daily activities like cooking or cleaning being matched with a younger person that might provide those services in lieu of or for discounted rent. Additionally, the program provides on-going support to the matches, such as conflict resolution, to ensure that they are successful as possible in establishing a productive and safe living arrangement.

This report studied five home sharing models across the Country including for-profit, non-profit, and Area Agency on Aging models. Communities studied included: two nationally utilized platforms and three local and independently operated home sharing programs in Ventura, California, Los Angeles, California, and Denver, Colorado. These platforms range in experience from 3-40 years and serve anywhere between 18-100 clients.

Pima County is experiencing a significant affordable housing crisis. Older adults have been greatly affected. The most recent statewide data from 2015 from the Arizona Department of Economic Security states that "increasing numbers of aging adults in the homeless population is a concern both nationally and in Arizona." In metropolitan areas, like Tucson, older adults who are homeless take a large share of the homeless shelter bed space.

According to the US Census, in Pima County 53% of older renters are housing insecure, which means that they are paying over 30% of their monthly income in rent and housing-related expenses. Additionally, 41% of people over the age of 60 live alone, making them more vulnerable to needing additional home and community-based services either through the Area Agencies on Aging or through the ALTCS program.

Home sharing is a solution that provides a matching and on-going supportive service for older adults who may be vulnerable to homelessness or who may need additional support through home and community-based services.

PROPOSAL

PCOA is seeking up to \$200,000 in seed funding with \$150,000 of annual ongoing funding to begin and maintain this program. The City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Department committed \$50,000 in P-CHIP grant funding to support this project. These funds would help to leverage the funds offered by the City of Tucson to create a sustainable and successful program. Please see budget information below:

Item	Expense
Staff salaries, including program and administrative oversight	\$133,000
Employee related expenses	\$30,000
Procurement of matching software/database	\$10,000
Marketing/communications	\$10,000
Equipment	\$5,000
Printing	\$1,000
Mileage/cell phones	\$1,000
Other operating expenses (office space, utilities, etc.)	\$10,000
Total	\$200,000

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information or clarification, contact Maddy Bynes, Director of Public Policy & Special Projects, at (520) 307-5751 or mbynes@pcoa.org.