

Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona

and Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness

13th Annual Report
November 2004



Prepared by:
Homeless Coordination Office
Community Service Administration
Arizona Department of Economic Security
David Berns, Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0 HOMELESSNESS DEFINED	2
Federal Definition	2
Arizona Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Definition	3
3.0 WHO ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE	3
Elderly Persons.....	3
Chronically Homeless	3
Families with Children	3
Youth.....	4
Veterans.....	5
Victims of Domestic Violence.....	5
Persons with Addiction Disorders.	6
Persons with Mental Health Issues	6
4.0 HOUSING AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS	7
5.0 STATUS OF HOMELESSNESS IN ARIZONA.....	7
Continua of Care Gaps Analysis	7
Two-Year Comparison	8
Ten-Year Comparison: Point-in-Time Survey	9
Demographic Characteristics of Homeless People.....	9
6.0 EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR END HOMELESSNESS	10
Interagency and Community Council to End Homelessness	10
State Agencies	11
New Initiatives - State Agencies.....	17
Continua of Care	18
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).....	20
Statewide Homeless Project Evaluation System	21
Statewide Advocacy Organizations.....	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the thirteenth annual report on homelessness in Arizona prepared pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1954(A)(19)(g). The report provides information about homelessness, including the causes, demographic characteristics, services, programs available to and issues facing people experiencing homelessness. The report highlights the progress made in the past year in ending homelessness, current funding and information on programs, and state and local efforts to prevent and end homelessness in Arizona.

Although the causes and factors contributing to homelessness are complex, there are consistent, identifiable contributing factors for both individuals and families in urban and rural communities in Arizona. These include poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, health and general mental health issues, any one of which can and do exacerbate the downward spiral leading to homelessness. Strategies focusing on housing and supportive services are necessary to prevent and end homelessness and to re-establish homeless persons within a community.

Homeless individuals and youth who are not in families constitute the largest group of homeless persons. The majority of homeless persons not in families are reported by emergency and transitional housing programs as having problems with substance abuse or serious mental illness or both. Reports also indicate that many are exiting the correctional system and facing barriers to family reunification because of current crime free housing policies. Homeless families, specifically women with children, are the fastest growing subpopulation of people who are homeless.

A section on homeless youth in this report includes estimates of the number of homeless youth, demographics of this population, available programs and services, estimates of the number of youth currently being served by existing programs, and an estimate of the number of youth who sought assistance at a shelter but could not be served.

Estimates of the number of homeless people in Arizona vary. Based on actual shelter and street counts and estimates provided by community groups throughout the state, there **may be as many as 22,000 homeless people in Arizona on any given day**, including persons who are in emergency shelters or transitional housing (7,256 on February 24, 2004), or other locations such as on the streets, camped in forests, or living in cars or buildings that are unsafe and/or unsuitable for habitation.

Throughout the state there are a large number of households earning less than a livable wage who are at high risk of becoming homeless. Current estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census Report indicate that 17 percent of families with children in Arizona (or 116,369 families) were living at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) of \$18,850 for a family of four (National Center for Children in Poverty, 2004). To earn \$18,850 per year, one family member would have to earn an hourly wage of \$9.04. However, an hourly wage of \$16.06 is needed to rent an average two-bedroom apartment in Arizona. An Arizona worker earning minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour would need to work 125 hours per week in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the area's Fair Market Rent (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2004).

In approximately 180 emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in Arizona, there are an estimated 2,880 emergency beds and 6,600 transitional housing beds. Additionally, there are a host of faith and community-based nonprofit organizations providing a variety of other services to assist homeless people, including, but not limited to, temporary shelter in hotels/motels, congregate meals, food boxes distributed by food banks and pantries, clothing, mentoring, counseling, job training, and employment assistance programs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1954(A)(19)(g), the Homeless Coordination Office of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) annually submits a report on the status of homelessness and efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. This report provides information about homelessness including the causes, the demographic characteristics, issues homeless persons face, progress made in the past year in assisting homeless persons and information on current funding. Additionally, this report addresses and includes information on homeless youth.

Information and data for this report are derived from several sources including a semi-annual point-in-time survey conducted February 24, 2004, previous years' point-in-time survey data, a bi-annual homeless youth survey conducted in 2003, emergency shelter and transitional housing contractor reports submitted to DES Community Services Administration, Census Bureau and DES population data and characteristics, and local Continua of Care Gaps Analyses information. All references to state fiscal year 2004 refer to the time frame from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

2.0 HOMELESSNESS DEFINED

There are varying definitions of homelessness. Federal programs primarily reflect one definition, while some state and local programs use the Arizona Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) definition.

Federal Definition

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11301, et seq. (1994), a person is considered homeless who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and has a primary night time residency that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings" [42 U.S.C. § 11302(a)]. The term "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a state law" [42 U.S.C. § 11302(c)].

The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act includes a more comprehensive definition of homelessness. This statute states that the term 'homeless child and youth' means (A) individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and, (B) includes: (i) children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence, and includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; (ii) children and youth who have a primary night-time residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings... (iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and (iv) migratory children...who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii). McKinney-Vento Act sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2).

Specifically related to domestic violence, a person is deemed homeless if that person is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

Arizona Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Definition – A.R.S. § 46-241(5)

Homeless means *“the participant has no permanent place of residence where a lease or mortgage agreement between the participant and the owner exists.”*

3.0 WHO ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE?

Homelessness is a complex social and economic issue that can affect anyone. Structural issues such as poverty, disability and lack of safe and affordable housing, increase the prevalence of homelessness within our nation and state. Loss of a job, a health crisis, domestic violence, the loss of family support and a myriad of other events can trigger a downward spiral and result in homelessness. Homelessness affects people of all ages and ethnic groups. A brief description of the major sub-populations of homeless people in Arizona follows:

Elderly Persons

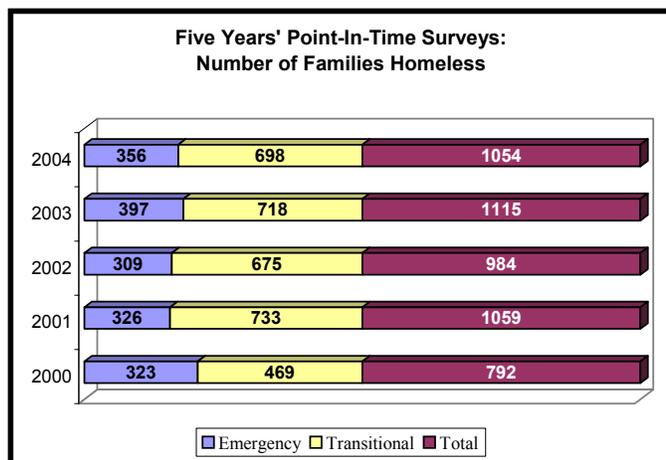
Elderly persons over the age of 65 is a continuously increasing area within the homeless population. Between 2002 and 2003 there was a 9 percent increase statewide in elderly persons receiving services from either transitional housing or shelters. Although the 2004 data has shown a decrease in elderly homeless sheltered (115 sheltered in 2003 versus 57 sheltered in 2004), this number is underrepresented due to missing data from the February 2004 Point-In-Time Survey. It is believed that the number of homeless elderly continues to increase.

Chronically Homeless

Generally speaking, a chronically homeless person is disabled and has either been continuously homeless over the past 12 months or homeless at least four times in the past three years (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Data from the February 2004 Chronically Homeless Survey was collected from shelters in each continuum (Maricopa, Pima, and Rural). In Maricopa County, 504 homeless individuals were interviewed from 11 facilities, 116 of who were found to be chronically homeless (23 percent). In Pima County 72 of the 227 homeless individuals interviewed were found to be chronically homeless (32 percent). The rural counties produced the highest percentage of chronically homeless individuals (nearly 50 percent), with 66 out of 133 reporting they were chronically homeless. Overall, in the state of Arizona, this sample shows that 254 of the 864 homeless individuals interviewed (29 percent) were chronically homeless in February 2004.

Families with Children

The February 2004 point-in-time survey identified 356 families in emergency shelters and 698 families in transitional housing programs for a total of 1,054 homeless families in shelter on a given day. The average size of families in emergency shelter and transitional housing in February 2004 was 3.2 persons. Available data from the survey indicates that the majority of homeless families is headed by single females (75 percent), followed by two-parent



families (18 percent), and families headed by a single male (2 percent). Agencies reported that 21 percent of the persons in families had a history of domestic violence. In addition, agencies reported that **281 families were turned away from emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in a one-day period in February 2004.**

Youth

In 1999, Senate Bill 1180 (Laws 1999, Chapter 328) established a Homeless Youth Intervention Program and required that the DES Homeless Coordination Office include information about homeless youth in its annual homelessness report. The Homeless Youth Intervention Program was implemented January 1, 2000 in three locations and administered through collaborative partnerships with community social agencies, family support programs and other community organizations, including faith-based organizations. These partnerships provide services to homeless youth who are referred, based on a screening and assessment by DES, and are not currently served by the state child protective services or juvenile justice systems. This program provides 24-hour crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment assistance, assistance in obtaining shelter, transitional and independent living programs, character education and additional services necessary for youth to achieve self-sufficiency. The legislature appropriated \$800,000 for its first 18 months of operation, from January 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001, and \$400,000 yearly thereafter.

In February 2003, an estimated 56 emergency “community beds” serving “non-system” youth were identified, as well as 59 transitional housing beds. In 2004 the estimates increased slightly, indicating a total of 59 emergency beds and 66 transitional beds allocated for youth under the age of 18. Statewide, agencies also operate seven transitional living programs, including group residences, supervised apartments and scattered site apartments. Additionally, one program based in Tucson assists with sheltering youth through host families. Many of Arizona’s homeless youth programs strive to offer a continuum of services that begin with outreach and recruitment of youth into programs. Outreach and recruitment are critical components since youth are reluctant to seek out services and are often afraid to trust an agency or program with their care. With that said, the last official estimate of youth under 18 who are homeless at a given point in time is 1,780 (Year 2002 Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis by Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima County’s Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless, and the Arizona Department of Housing).

Complete and consistent data on homeless youth is difficult to obtain due to the diverse characteristics of this population. While no single data source in Arizona provides a comprehensive estimate of the number of homeless youth, data collected by several agencies with a statewide focus were used to measure the extent of the problem and identify areas of need. Each of the estimates is presented in the following table and reflects only a portion of the homeless youth population:

Categories of Homeless Youth: 2002 - 2004	Estimated Numbers
Youth Under 18 who are homeless at a given point in time (Year 2002 Continuum of Care Gaps Analyses by Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima County’s Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless, and the Arizona Department of Housing)	1,780
Youth on their own under 18 who were residing in motels, shelters, or transitional housing on February 27, 2003 (point-in-time survey)	77
Youth on their own under 18 who were residing in motels, shelters, or transitional housing on February 24, 2004 (point-in-time survey)	78

The 2003 survey on homeless youth by the DES Homeless Coordination Office, reflecting responses of eight homeless youth providers through thirteen service sites, revealed that 169 youth under 18 and 417 youth 18-21 sought assistance at a homeless youth program but were turned away for a lack of capacity, while 924 youth under 18 and 8,966 youth 18-21 were provided services through one of the thirteen programs during SFY 2003. Most of the youth 18-21 received services either through street outreach or a drop-in center, although approximately 200 received transitional housing. Additional information is provided in the table below.

2003 Homeless Youth Survey	Youth Under 18	Youth 18-21
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	26%	12%
Black, Not Hispanic	11%	13%
White, Not Hispanic	57%	74%
American Indian	5%	1%
Females Served	56%	34%
Arizona Legal Residence	92%	83%
Reasons for Homelessness		
Runaway	9%	30%
Abandoned (Throwaway)	41%	70%
Family Crisis	2%	0%
In Crisis	28%	0%
Other	20%	<1%

Veterans

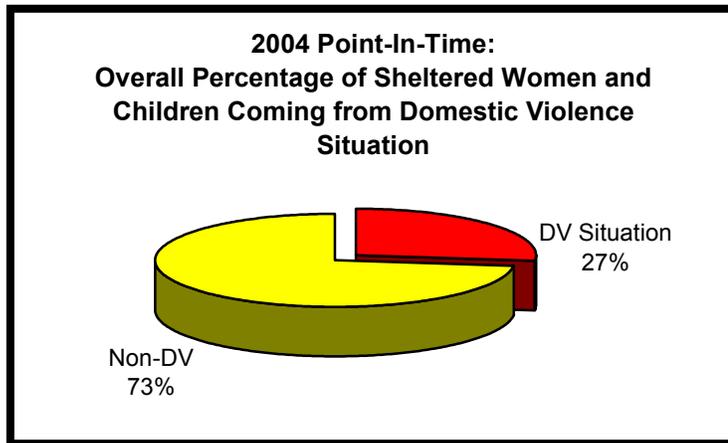
Based on data gathered from the 2004 point-in-time surveys, 12 percent of all adults in emergency shelter or transitional housing were reported to be veterans. Since not all programs collect this information, it is likely that this figure may be considerably higher. Many homeless veterans suffer from conditions such as posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and general mental health disorders. They are prone to congregate with other veterans and desire community with other veterans.

In Arizona, there are a small number of private non-profit transitional housing programs for veterans that account for approximately 250 beds. During the past six years, efforts by nonprofit providers to obtain funding from the Veterans Administration for homeless veterans have been successful. This is evidenced by an increase in the number of beds available. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical care for veterans in Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott. Homeless veterans are served at each of these three locations. In addition, The State Department of Veterans' Services was established in Arizona in 1999. This department acts as a referral agency to the various homeless service providers and Veterans Affairs, and participates in and supports the programs that assist the homeless.

Victims of Domestic Violence

The February 2004 point-in-time survey of homeless shelters statewide indicated that 15 percent of all persons in shelters came from a domestic violence situation; this includes men, women, children, and youth under the age of 18 and on their own. Discounting men, 27 percent of women, children, and youth on their own came from a domestic violence situation. As noted in the Domestic Violence Shelter Services In Arizona annual report for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, staff and volunteers in 31 residential domestic violence shelters and safe home networks, responded to 45,095 calls for emergency shelter and information and referral. (Duplication exists in the number of calls for shelter, as there is no reliable source of unduplicated data.)

As reported by the 31 residential shelters and safe home networks, shelter was provided to 9,857 women and children, with an average length of stay in the shelter setting of approximately 26 days. Forty-seven percent of the clients served by the shelters were 18-44 years of age and 75 percent reported an average annual income of \$6,000 or less, with 83 percent reporting income less than \$14,000. Shelters also reported that the top two unmet needs for the victims were affordable housing and transportation. Financial assistance, substance abuse and mental health counseling and legal services also represented a high proportion of need.



Persons with Addiction Disorders

Substance abuse contributes to a downward spiral, which can lead to homelessness. Substance abuse is over represented in the homeless population and affects homeless families and individuals. Of those persons housed in emergency shelters and transitional housing on any given night, a large percentage are identified by shelter staff as having a substance abuse issue. Based on the February 2004 survey, 42 percent of all adults were believed to have substance abuse issues.

While this percentage is alarming, this does not mean that such a high percentage of all homeless persons have substance abuse problems. National studies have shown that this population is over represented in shelter populations. Those persons without such issues tend to remain homeless for shorter periods of time and thus are less likely to be counted during point-in-time surveys. Thus, during the course of a year, the percentage of homeless persons with substance abuse issues is significantly lower.

Adequately addressing the needs of the addicted homeless population is a high priority in most communities in the state, as identified through the local Continuum of Care processes. However, current state and federal funding is limited and cannot begin to meet the need for services for this subpopulation.

Persons with Mental Health Issues

In the February 2004 point-in-time survey of emergency shelter and transitional housing, the DES Arizona Homeless Coordination Office identified approximately 406 individuals believed to be seriously mental ill (SMI). Another 669 persons were believed to have combined substance abuse and SMI issues. Over the past several years, Regional Behavioral Health Authorities in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Graham, Greenlee and Yuma counties have applied for and received McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds from the United States Department of HUD to provide housing and/or services for Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) persons.

At this time, over 2,000 formerly homeless individuals and persons in families are residing in McKinney-Vento funded permanent housing with supportive services provided or arranged by the behavioral health system. This type of housing has made a significant impact on reducing the number of SMI diagnosed individuals residing on the streets or in shelters. In addition, more than 1,000 formerly homeless persons diagnosed as SMI have moved from McKinney-Vento

funded permanent housing to HUD Section 8 permanent housing and continue to receive supportive services. Based on information provided by the three Continua of Care planning groups, the unmet need for this type of housing with supportive services is estimated to be over 3,000 beds for individuals and families.

Although progress has been made, many challenges still remain to serving homeless and mentally ill persons and those challenges include: limited funding; treatment options for homeless persons who have general mental health issues which impact their ability to function and be employed, but who do not meet the SMI diagnosis; and continuing challenges to systems and treatment options for persons with co-occurring disorders such as SMI and substance abuse.

4.0 HOUSING AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

Nationally and in Arizona there are a limited number of programs designed specifically for homeless persons. The majority of resources are concentrated in and available through mainstream programs designed to assist people who are low income, including Medicaid, which in Arizona is referred to as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), food stamps, cash assistance, job training, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and job development through the Workforce Investment Act. Access to mainstream services can be very difficult for homeless persons who are on the streets or who are in emergency shelter. Lack of transportation to eligibility sites or the appropriate documents needed to determine eligibility for these programs are just a few of the barriers homeless persons face when trying to access necessary resources that will assist them in moving toward self-sufficiency.

5.0 STATUS OF HOMELESSNESS IN ARIZONA

Statewide gaps analyses, published reports, and survey information were utilized to provide information on the status of homeless persons in Arizona. Information from those sources follows:

Continua of Care Gaps Analysis

In Arizona there are three Continua of Care geographically divided as follows:

- 1) Maricopa County;
- 2) Pima County; and
- 3) Balance of State/Rural Arizona

The Continua of Care Gaps Analysis is part of a process whereby communities come together to identify gaps in the local response to homelessness and then set priorities to fill those gaps. To identify gaps in the Continua of Care, the number of homeless persons, type and number of housing and services, and the type and number of unmet needs are generated. In Arizona, gaps analyses are conducted in each county on a yearly basis and include data from the DES point-in-time surveys, street counts and estimates from local providers. Information from the 2004 local gaps analyses regarding the estimated number of homeless persons is provided in the following table:

Continua of Care (CoC) Gaps Analysis: Estimated Number of People Homeless at Point-in-Time in 2004			
County	Individuals	Persons in families w/children	Total
Apache	89	196	285
Cochise	775	311	1,086
Coconino	1,000	1,000	2,000
Gila	114	125	239
Graham/Greenlee	75	75	150
La Paz	1,090	208	1,298
Maricopa	4,899	3,413	8,312
Mohave	515	150	665
Navajo	225	150	375
Pima	2,738	1,470	4,208
Pinal	130	309	439
Santa Cruz	105	175	280
Yavapai	752	495	1,247
Yuma	495	70	565
Total	13,002	8,147	21,149

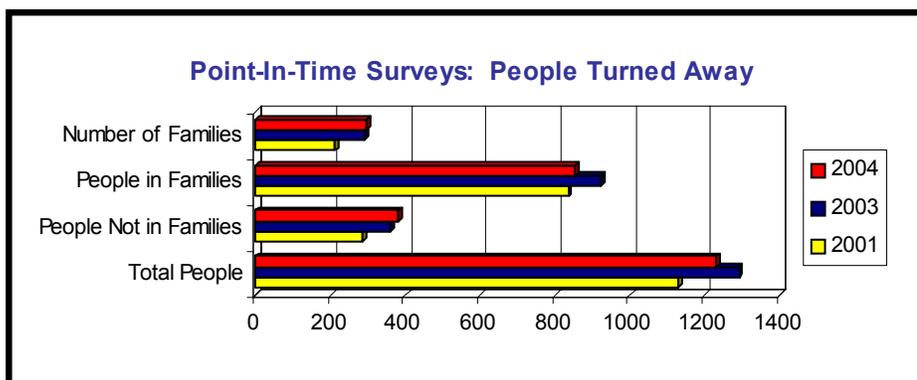
Due to a change in guidelines from HUD, formerly homeless persons housed in permanent supportive housing are no longer counted as homeless. As a result, the estimates of homelessness have decreased from previous years.

Two-Year Comparison—Point-In-Time Surveys: February 2003 and February 2004

On February 27, 2003 and February 24, 2004, all emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in Arizona known to the DES Homeless Coordination Office were asked to report:

2-Year Point-in-time survey	Emergency		Transitional	
	2/24/03	2/27/04	2/24/03	2/27/04
Families	397	356	718	698
Persons in Families	1,317	1,137	2,353	2,202
Single Adults	1,617	1,719	1,752	2,120
Youth Under 18	43	35	34	43
Total Persons Sheltered	3,057	2,891	4,139	4,365

- How many people were sheltered or housed on those nights;
- What their characteristics were; and
- How many people were “turned away” on those nights or on “waiting lists.”



Ten-Year Comparison: Point-In-Time Surveys

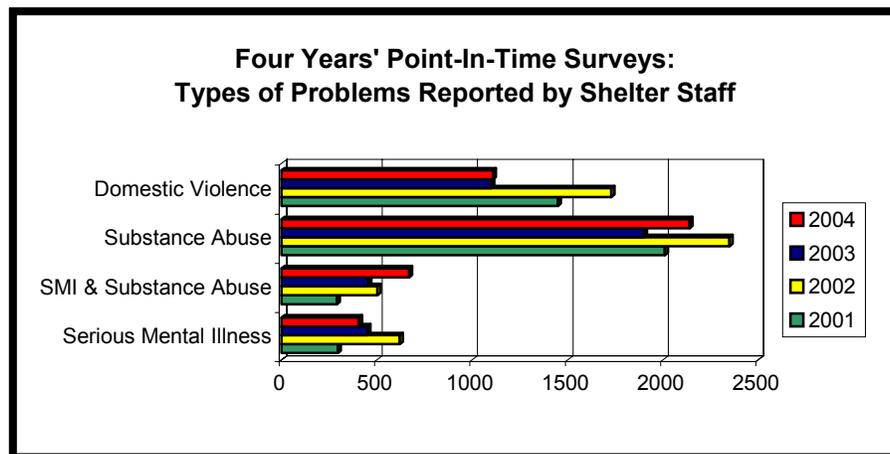
The DES Homeless Coordination Office has completed a statewide shelter and motel voucher survey annually since 1995. Responses to this survey are sought from all known agencies throughout the state that shelter homeless people. Requests to complete surveys are sent to over 200 agencies in Arizona that provide emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, or motel vouchers. Typically, 90 percent of agencies respond.

⇒ From 1995 to 2004, emergency shelter and transitional housing capacity increased by 4,398 beds (5,062 to 9,460), or 87 percent.

⇒ Over the last 10 years the number of people in emergency shelters and transitional housing has increased by 2,422 (4,834 in 1995 to 7,256 in 2004), or 50 percent.

The agencies surveyed establish their own parameters for the type of clients served and intake qualification. Therefore, the range of people counted in this survey is limited by the types of shelter available. In transitional housing, the difference between capacity and people sheltered may be accounted for by apartments that are occupied, but in which beds are unoccupied due to family size. Specifically, an agency may have three four-bed apartments occupied by three families with eight people, leaving four beds unoccupied.

The chart below includes issues identified by the staff of homeless and housing service providers experienced by the homeless people who received shelter. The types of problems include serious mental illness, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Any one individual can be counted in only one of the first three categories but may also appear in the domestic violence category.



Demographic Characteristics of Homeless People

- Based on the February 2004 point-in-time survey of homeless shelters and transitional housing providers, sheltered females accounted for approximately 23 percent of the sheltered single adult population.
- In contrast, female adults in families represent 83 percent of the total adult population in families.
- Children in families who were under 18 years of age accounted for 30 percent of the homeless population in emergency shelters and transitional housing.

6.0 EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR END HOMELESSNESS

The following section provides information on resources/programs available to prevent or end homelessness in Arizona, including programs administered by state agencies, state agency initiatives, other initiatives, and resource agencies and coalitions.

Interagency and Community Council To End Homelessness

In June 2004, Governor Janet Napolitano signed Executive Order 2004-13 establishing a State Interagency and Community Council To End Homelessness. The purpose of the Council is to develop and implement a State Plan To End Homelessness through identification of policy, practice and funding actions that can be taken at the state level to prevent and end homelessness through support, involvement and coordination among multiple state agencies and the private sector.

The Council is co-chaired by Dr. Sheila Harris, Director of the Department of Housing, and David Berns, Director of the Department of Economic Security, and is comprised of representatives of the Governor's office, private and philanthropic sectors, and the following state agencies: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Department of Economic Security, Department of Housing, Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Veterans Services, Department of Health Services, Department of Juvenile Corrections, Government Information Technology Agency and the Arizona Supreme Court with the charge of developing and implementing a State Plan To End Homelessness.

The development and implementation of the State Plan To End Homelessness is being achieved through a project structure that includes the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness, the State Plan Work Group and community input and involvement. The role of the State Plan Work Group is to:

- ⇒ Develop goals, objectives and recommendations for inclusion in the State Plan To End Homelessness for review by the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness,
- ⇒ Support the implementation of the approved State Plan within their agencies and through coordination and collaboration with other State agencies,
- ⇒ Monitor implementation of the State Plan,
- ⇒ Identify policy issues and options for presentation to the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness.

The timeline for the development and implementation of the State Plan To End Homelessness is as follows:

- ⇒ Phase I – Development of the State Plan for supportive services – April through September 2004
- ⇒ Phase II – Development of the State Plan for Housing for persons who are homeless – September 2004 through June 2005
- ⇒ Phase III – Ongoing implementation and integration with other housing and services initiatives – 2005

State Agencies

- **Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH)**

- ⇒ **Home and State Housing Trust Fund Programs**

ADOH offers a combined application process for two sources of funding available through the state housing department to induce the development and provision of affordable housing opportunities for low-income families. These two sources are collectively referred to as “The State Housing Fund” and include HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding, which are federal funds received through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State Housing Trust Fund (HTF). Together, \$31.5 million in HOME and State HTF funds are available in SFY 2005.

- ⇒ **State Housing Trust Fund Program**

Established in 1988 by the Arizona State Legislature, the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created to provide a flexible funding source to assist in meeting the housing needs of low-income families in Arizona. The HTF is designed to assist local governments and other organizations in providing affordable housing. The HTF receives its money from a 55 percent allocation of unclaimed property deposits, interest on unexpended funds, loan repayments and recaptured funds. By statute, 36 percent of the 55 percent yearly allocation is specifically designated for use in rural areas of the state. The state’s current goals for these funds are outlined in the State’s Consolidated Plan, which is updated yearly and filed with HUD. This document is available upon request.

Legislation governing the HTF is published in A.R.S. § 41-1512 and A.R.S. § 44-323. The statutes that govern the fund are relatively open and flexible and do not spell out specific policies for the use of the funds in the same manner that the federal regulations govern the HOME funding. The HTF is available to fund projects or programs that are not statutorily fundable with federal dollars and are the best source to utilize in projects that do not lend themselves well to the confines of federal regulations. Approximately \$21.6 million is available through this fund in SFY 2005. In addition to the types of housing assistance listed below under “HOME”, the HTF also funds tenant-based rental assistance, fair housing education, prison city housing (employee housing), state special projects, and recipient administrative costs.

- ⇒ **Federal HOME Program**

HOME is a federal housing block grant program created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. It provides funds to state and local governments to design housing projects with non-profit developers. ADOH has made available \$9.8 million in SFY 2004 to local governments and non-profit organizations statewide. HOME gives state and local governments the flexibility to decide what kind of housing assistance, or mix of housing assistance, is most appropriate to meet their housing needs. Some types of assistance include, rental housing development, homeownership assistance, new construction, owner occupied rehabilitation, emergency housing repair, and property acquisition.

- ⇒ **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

ADOH administers the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for non-metropolitan counties in Arizona. Approximately \$14.4 million is available every year to local governments for housing and community development needs. The purpose of the CDBG Program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.

⇒ **Arizona Public Housing Authority (PHA)**

○ **Project-Based Section 8 Affordable Housing**

Beginning in October 2001, the Arizona Public Housing Authority was given oversight and monitoring responsibilities for 111 federally subsidized properties, representing 7,751 units throughout the State of Arizona. The properties, which receive rental subsidies through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, offer affordable housing to households that are at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The creation of the Arizona Public Housing Authority was an important step toward assuring the continued affordability and condition of these properties.

○ **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance to Graham and Yavapai Counties**

A PHA was formed by the legislature in 1992 to ensure that Federal Section 8 tenant-based rental assistance resources were made available to two areas of the state, Yavapai and Graham counties, not otherwise served by local PHA's. ADOH currently administers 59 Section 8 vouchers in Yavapai and Graham counties.

⇒ **Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits**

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program provides low-cost rental housing assistance to many Arizonans. Approximately \$10 million in federal income tax credits is available annually to developers willing to build or rehabilitate residential multi-family apartment projects and make them affordable. This program provides a dollar-for-dollar credit against federal income tax liability for owners/developers of qualifying residential rental projects for a period of 10 years. The credit is intended to produce a cash subsidy to aid in the production of affordable housing and, in return, the developer agrees to restrict rents for a period of time. The federal tax credits finance approximately 60 percent of overall construction costs. **To date, more than \$135 million in tax credits has been allocated assisting in the creation of 23,000 units of low-income housing. These projects have leveraged more than \$700 million in Arizona's construction industry.**

⇒ **Special Needs Housing (SNH)**

ADOH Special Needs Housing (SNH) provides statewide planning to increase and sustain funding while coordinating localized resources and administers federal and state housing programs to various special needs populations. These populations include persons who are homeless with a serious mental illness (and their families), homeless youth, families, veterans, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence.

For SFY 2005, SNH will administer 30 federal HUD grants totaling over \$10 million annually to project sponsor organizations or agencies that serve special needs populations. Through the State Housing Trust Fund (HTF), SNH will administer \$2.1 million in Eviction Prevention/Emergency Housing assistance to 21 agencies statewide who serve low income individuals and families needing mortgage foreclosure, emergency rental and/or utilities assistance, rental/utility deposits, or hotel/motel vouchers. In addition, SNH facilitates a state funding process for "One Time Emergency" requests from non-profit agencies who are experiencing undue or unforeseen hardship in providing their current level of housing services to special needs populations, such as homeless persons or victims of domestic violence.

As the grantee for the Rural Arizona Continuum of Care, the ADOH SNH administers the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Programs consisting of Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Programs, which promote the development of supportive housing and services to assist homeless persons in the transition from homelessness

and to enable such persons to live as independently as possible. In addition, ADOH SNH is the grantee for Continuum of Care projects in Maricopa and Pima Counties.

The total number of units funded during SFY 2005 include:

Shelter Plus Care		Supportive Housing Programs	
County	Units of housing		
Maricopa	621	<u>Maricopa County</u>	136 units of permanent supportive housing
Pima	112	<u>Rural Arizona</u>	76 units of permanent supportive housing
Yuma	25		129 units of transitional housing
Graham & Greenlee	20		82 persons provided supportive services only (point-in-time)
Santa Cruz	5		
TOTAL	783	Total	341 units of housing

- **Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)**

- ⇒ **Domestic Violence Shelter Fund (DVSF)**

ADES receives a percentage of all court filing fees collected by Arizona counties. These funds are used to provide emergency domestic violence shelter, advocacy and support services. Approximately \$1.5 million was available in SFY 2004.

- ⇒ **Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP)**

ADES contracts these state appropriated funds for services such as counseling, shelter, transportation, transitional housing and childcare. Approximately \$2.5 million was available in SFY 2004.

- ⇒ **Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)**

The ESG program is funded under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. HUD administers the program. The primary intent of ESG is to provide funds for renovation/rehabilitation and operating expenses for homeless shelters. Funding of staff cost are not allowed. However, some prevention services (prevention of eviction or utility shutoff) and essential social services are allowed. Approximately \$699,000 was available in SFY 2004.

- ⇒ **Homeless Trust Fund (HTF)**

The legislation that established this fund made available \$200,000 the first year (1991) and the amount of interest earned on the \$800,000 trust fund base in subsequent years. Homeless services provided with these funds are based on the priorities set by the Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee. In SFY 2004, \$8,000 was available for commitment through this fund. The funding was awarded to a consultant for the purpose of applying for grants to augment funding for the service priorities including emergency shelter/transitional housing, employment-related services, and the prevention of homelessness.

- ⇒ **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**

SSBG, also known as Title XX, is not homeless specific. However, part of the available funds, some of which are planned at a local level and some at a department (DES) level, have been allocated specifically for services to domestic violence victims in addition to general homelessness. Crisis intervention, which includes shelter and counseling, is provided for domestic violence victims. Services funded for homeless people in general include crisis intervention, case management, and transportation. The U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administers the SSBG funds. Approximately \$563,000 was available for domestic violence services and homeless services received approximately \$657,000 in SFY 2004.

⇒ **Homeless Shelter Line Item**

These funds are appropriated by the Arizona State Legislature for homeless shelters as a line item in the DES budget. The funds are then contracted out through state agencies to non-profit, community-based providers to pay for the cost of shelter facilities and services and to provide hotel and motel vouchers. In SFY 2004, \$1.1 million was available through this state fund source.

⇒ **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

TANF funds are available through the Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, which are administered by the DHHS. The state has submitted amendments to the TANF State Plan in order to establish a TANF emergency services plan. Although the federal regulations do not specify that eligible clients be homeless, they do allow a State TANF Plan, or a portion of the Plan, to be limited to a targeted issue such as homelessness. Arizona has used a portion of the TANF funds for homeless services that include: shelter (at a facility or by voucher), prevention, move-in assistance and case management services. Approximately \$5.1 million was available to domestic violence services while \$1.6 million was available for homeless services in SFY 2004.

Note: In addition to the above listed fund sources, DES serves homeless persons with other fund sources and through other mainstream programs, which are not limited to homeless persons. These services include TANF Cash Assistance, General Assistance, Short Term Crisis Services, Food Stamps, Job Services and the Workforce Investment Act.

⇒ **Homeless Coordination Office**

The Arizona Homeless Coordination Office was created in 1991 by A.R.S. §41-1954 (A), which establishes “an office to address the issue of homelessness and to provide coordination and assistance to public and private nonprofit organizations which prevent homelessness or aid homeless individuals and families throughout this state. These activities shall include:

- Promoting and participating in planning for the prevention of homelessness and the development of services to homeless persons.
- Identifying and developing strategies for resolving barriers in state agency service delivery systems that inhibit the provision and coordination of appropriate services to homeless persons and persons in danger of being homeless.
- Assisting in the coordination of the activities of federal, state and local governments and the private sector, which prevent homelessness or provide assistance to homeless people.
- Assisting in obtaining and increasing funding from all appropriate sources to prevent homelessness or assist in alleviating homelessness.
- Serving as a clearinghouse for information regarding funding and services available to assist homeless persons and persons in danger of being homeless.
- Submitting an annual report by January 1, 1992, and each year thereafter to the Governor, the President of Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of homelessness and efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness.”

⇒ **DES Hunger Advisory Council**

The Hunger Advisory Council was established by the Arizona Legislature in the Charity Food Bank Act of 1986. Shortly thereafter, the Council was transferred to DES as a special advisory council in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-1954.

• **Arizona Department of Education (DOE)**

⇒ **Education for Homeless Children and Youth: Grants for State and Local Activities**

In January of 2002, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was reauthorized as a part of No Child Left Behind legislation. This Act requires educational access and equity for children and youth experiencing homelessness, outlines responsibilities for local liaisons, and provides funding to support local grants and statewide initiatives.

The Arizona Department of Education utilizes this funding to maintain a State Coordinator of Homeless Education, a role clearly defined by McKinney-Vento. The Coordinator is responsible for developing Arizona's state plan, facilitating coordination with other agencies, providing technical assistance to public school districts, and gathering comprehensive data for federal reporting purposes. For the 2003-4 school year, 14,705 students experiencing homelessness were enrolled in Arizona's public schools. Fifty-five percent of these students attended Kindergarten through fifth grade.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act also outlines specific responsibilities for the Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Each of the 623 public school districts and charter holders in Arizona has designated a Local Educational Agency Liaison to ensure that students experiencing homelessness:

- Are informed of their rights as homeless children and unaccompanied youth
- Are identified, immediately enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Are provided transportation to remain in their "school of origin" if it is in their "best interest" and considered feasible
- Have records maintained and available in a timely fashion
- Receive all educational services for which they are eligible, including free breakfast and lunch, Title I, Gifted, Special Education, Migrant, and English Acquisition Services.

While all public school districts are held accountable for these responsibilities, some receive financial assistance to do so. McKinney-Vento sub grants help defray costs associated with educating homeless students, such as transportation services, facilitating initial enrollment services, social services, and delivering supplemental instructional services. Funds are allocated on a competitive basis to those with the highest program quality and greatest need for assistance. For the fiscal year 2005, \$933,314 was allocated to 12 Local Education Agencies. It is projected that 8,099 students experiencing homelessness will benefit from additional services as a result of these sub grants.

• **Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS)**

⇒ **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

The PATH Grant is a federal grant from the Center for Mental Health Services/DHHS for the purpose of providing outreach services to persons with serious mental illness who are homeless. ADHS/Division of Behavioral Health Services utilizes the PATH Formula Grant Funds to provide an array of services to persons who are homeless and have a

serious mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance abuse problems. The three providers serving the areas of the State with the largest numbers of homeless individuals receive the PATH funding. The organizations that receive PATH funds are Southwest Behavioral Health Services, Community Partnership for Southern Arizona and Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Agency.

In FY 2004, PATH funded programs contacted approximately 6,000 homeless persons. It is projected that 9,000 homeless persons will be contacted in FY 2005. It is projected that over 1,000 of those contacted will be identified as having a serious mental illness.

⇒ **Shelter Plus Care**

The HUD funded Shelter Plus Care program, accessed through the three Continua of Care, provides rental assistance that, when combined with locally funded social services, provides supportive housing for homeless people with disabilities and their families. The Division of Behavioral Health Services of the DHS has the responsibility to administer services for persons who are SMI. State appropriated funds are allocated to private Regional Behavioral Health Authorities that subsequently provide matching funding for services to approximately 2,000 seriously mentally ill persons who receive housing subsidies provided by the Shelter Plus Care program. Shelter Plus Care housing programs must be administered by the government agencies such as ADOH or public housing departments.

⇒ **State General Funds**

State general funds have been used to develop transitional housing for individuals who have left the Arizona State Hospital, Supervisory Care Homes or residential programs. This money is being used to rent properties, usually four bedroom homes. They also provide covered, supportive services to assist them in maintaining their independent housing in accordance with their Individual Service Plan.

• **Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC)**

The Arizona Department of Corrections administers an offender transition process, which begins the day offenders are committed to ADC and ends upon completion of their terms of community supervision. The system is designed to positively impact offenders' behavior for the rest of their lives. The process includes offender diagnostic assessment, programming and services designed to maximize the likelihood that each offender will successfully transition to community life upon release and not relapse. It is focused on heightening offender awareness, increasing positive behavior change, and strengthening individual accountability (Arizona Interagency & Community Council on Homelessness, 2004).

⇒ The Arizona Department of Corrections released 15,747 inmates during FY 2004, and the average time served confined was 31 months. Of the 15,747 inmates released during FY 2004 9,652 or 61 percent were released to ADC community supervision. Of those released to supervision 1,736 offenders were homeless and an additional 1,799 offenders were housed at private sector halfway houses upon their release.

- Parallel Universe, the Department's re-entry program, starts day 1 of incarceration with a classification of all offenders' needs and risk.
- Parallel Universe also provides real world pre-release preparation throughout the sentence to ADC in prison or on community supervision.
- An individual Offenders Correction Plan will be created for each offender upon exiting reception. The Offenders Corrections Plan will be based on addressing the driving needs for their criminal behavior.

- ADC completes a proposed placement investigation prior to an offender's release to determine if the residence will be approved. Homeless offenders are only released when law requires it.
- Through the collaborative contract with Department of Health Services (DHS), all offenders with a substance abuse history who are supervised in the community for 3 months or more are referred to substance abuse treatment and follow-up services. The aforementioned services are paid for by the Drug, Treatment and Education Fund (DTEF-Spirits Taxes).
- Under the collaborative contract with DHS, four caseworkers known as Community Transition Specialists (CTS) work with ADC special needs offenders who are homeless to assist them in securing permanent housing, obtaining food, obtaining medication, and receiving other supportive services as needed. Cases are screened and referred to the CTS through the ADC homeless coordinator and parole officers. In FY 2004, 55 offenders who were homeless with co-occurring disorders received direct treatment services and rental assistance, including case management. It is important to note that this is a pilot program and special funding was not received for these services. The program was for 20 beds and they turned over 2 1/2 times and concluded with a total of 55 participants.
- ADC is implementing a video-based presentation for the offender population to inform them about programs in the community or what processes to follow to receive services.
- Transition Drug Program (SB1291) ADC implemented Chapter 256, the Transition Drug Program in March 2004. Contracted transition services are provided either while eligible offenders are in prison or immediately upon release. Classes, in prison or outside prison case management, seminars and/or mentoring opportunities are provided to identified, eligible, non-violent substance abusers. Participation in the program results in up to a 90-day early release. The focus of this program is to assist offenders with transitional needs to reduce relapse, revocation and recidivism.
- ADC provides a limited number of bus tickets, paid for through DTEF funds, to offenders who are substance abusers to allow them to attend treatment complete an initial job search, and attend employment until their first paycheck.
- Employment assistance is provided to offenders by referring them ADC's three job developers, who provide offenders referral to job education and vocational job opportunities. Also parole officers refer offenders to workforce and employment readiness programs through city, county, and state resources.

New Initiatives - State Agencies

Arizona state agencies played a role in developing and/or implementing the following initiatives in 2004:

- **The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH)**

In the 2001 legislative session, at the Governor's request, the legislature passed HB 2615 (Laws 2001, Chapter 22) that set in motion the process of establishing a new department of state government. A new Arizona Department of Housing was established October 1, 2002 with an interim organization, called the Governor's Office of Housing Development established for the period January 1, 2002 until October 1, 2002.

An important component of the new housing agency is a newly established funding source, the Arizona Housing Finance Agency, which began its work on January 1, 2002. The

authority may issue bonds for multi-family residential rental projects, may issue bonds to finance residential dwelling units and may establish mortgage credit certificate programs. These powers have been granted for the rural areas of Arizona.

Continua of Care

The Continuum of Care approach is HUD's primary strategy to end homelessness. HUD requires states that are applying for McKinney-Vento funding for local projects to implement a Continuum of Care planning process, which necessitates local decision-making that brings community groups together to address the issue of ending homelessness at the local level. Nationally, and in Arizona, the Continuum of Care groups include units of local and state government, non-profit agencies, businesses, charitable organizations, the faith community, housing developers, corporations, neighborhood groups, homeless and formerly homeless people and others. In Arizona, there are three Continua of Care geographically divided and facilitated as follows: 1) Maricopa County – Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG); 2) Pima County – Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless; and 3) Rural Arizona – the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness through contract with the Arizona Department of Housing.

- **Maricopa County Continuum of Care facilitated by MAG**

Since June 1999, the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Continuum of Care Committee on Homelessness has provided policy direction and leadership on homeless issues. In this capacity, the Committee directs year-round planning for homeless issues, submits a cooperative HUD grant application, and takes a role in improved linkages with other organizations. Recommendations from its subcommittees help to inform the work of the Committee. The Maricopa Continuum of Care has successfully competed for funds nationally, securing grants for 52 permanent supportive and transitional housing projects.

The 2003 Regional Plan to End Homelessness is the product of a community planning process that was conducted from January through July 2002. Under the leadership of the Regional Continuum of Care Committee, eight workgroups totaling more than 150 community stakeholders were convened. The Continuum's goals as identified through the planning process include:

- Secure a dedicated source of funding.
- Increase funding for general mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Increase regionalized permanent affordable housing and support services for low income and homeless persons.
- Develop a coordinated system of service provision through the development of client centered comprehensive systems of care.
- Incorporate participation of homeless and formerly homeless individuals in client centered systems of care.
- Develop a coordinated outreach effort targeted to chronically homeless individuals utilizing outreach teams.
- Develop outcome based homeless project evaluation system.

- **Pima County Continuum of Care facilitated by the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless (TPCH)**

The Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and improving the delivery of assistance to those who are homeless in the Tucson metropolitan area. Council membership includes

representation of human service providers, faith-based organizations and government. The business specific objectives are to:

- Develop priorities for improving the homeless services network;
- Advocate for actions necessary to achieve these goals;
- Advise local planners and decision-makers regarding most effective uses of available resources;
- Monitor progress toward developing a more coordinated and effective service delivery system;
- Explore new strategies for better meeting local needs;
- Identify significant trends and initiate response to emergent unmet needs; and
- Create a forum for communication and information sharing among those involved in addressing the problem of homelessness in the Tucson community and to develop, coordinate and evaluate programs that permit congregations to serve homeless individuals and families.

In 2003, the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless initiated a committee to work with stakeholders to develop a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness for the City of Tucson/Pima County. This committee includes members representing various social service agencies, faith-based organizations and government agencies as well as currently homeless clients. In addition, the City, County, and State each contributed equal funds to hire a consultant to facilitate committee activities and write the final draft of the plan. The committee recently completed a draft of plan goals, which will be refined and finalized through a series of focus groups with relevant stakeholders. A final draft of the plan is expected in early 2005, at which time the committee will shift its focus to implementing the plan.

- **Balance of State/Rural Arizona Continuum of Care facilitated by the ADOH and the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH)**

The Rural Arizona Continuum of Care encompasses 13 Arizona counties. This Continuum of Care is a confederation of local committees (usually countywide) that:

- share programmatic experience and design;
- develop regional solutions and the sharing of facilities and resources wherever possible;
- advocate for the needs of rural homeless persons; and,
- provide a united statement regarding programmatic and financial resources needs to state and federal funding agencies.

The Rural Arizona Continuum of Care Committee consists of representatives from the local homeless planning groups, plus representatives from entities with statewide responsibilities and interests in developing programs to end homelessness. In addition to providing a planning forum for information sharing and programmatic design, the Committee also is a vehicle for establishing funding priorities, developing training resources for staff directly working with homeless clients, and advocating on a statewide level, along with the other Continua of Care in the state, for changes in funding and policies regarding how services and housing for homeless persons are provided. This Continuum has been very effective and has been instrumental in obtaining and maintaining 22 projects currently funded by HUD through the Continuum of Care process.

The rural AZ Continuum of Care began its implementation of a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in 2004, and to date has successfully put into operation all currently HUD funded programs totaling 13 agencies with 22 programs. In addition, a website has been designed to capture the history, current HMIS status and major events taking place such as Arizona's Program Evaluation Tool development "Initiative". The website is www.symmetricolutions.com/ruralazhims. There is also a link on the Arizona Department of Housing website at www.housingaz.com.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)*

**Maricopa County and ADOH websites*

Over the past several years, Congress has directed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist local jurisdictions in implementing Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and in using data from these systems to obtain an unduplicated count of homeless persons, analyze local patterns of services usage, and assess local service needs.

HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. The development of a local HMIS is about:

- Bringing the power of computer technology to the day-to-day operations of individual service providers;
- Knitting together service providers in a more coordinated and effective service delivery system for the benefit of homeless clients; and
- Obtaining and reporting critical aggregate information about the characteristics and needs of homeless persons.

The expected benefits of the HMIS:

- **For the Client**—Improved coordination of care and services; improved knowledge about services and beds available; potential linkage to other service delivery systems in the future; reduced duplication of information gathering/sharing if elements such as common/central intake and shared case management are implemented; potential direct access to information in the future if kiosk or similar option is added; protection of client confidentiality.
- **For the Provider Who Participates in the HMIS**—Automated reporting; reduction in number of reports produced; improved internal and external data; improved ability to serve clients; automated information for management and case managers (i.e., automated case management function when implemented); improved client tracking; potential to streamline referral processes; potential for strengthened partnerships through participation; meet HUD reporting requirements.
- **For the Continuum of Care**—Improved information about system and system needs for funding, decision-making and policy; improve information for the Continuum of Care Exhibit 1 application to HUD and other funding applications; improved ability to identify and quantify gaps in the system; credibility; potential for strengthened partnership among components of the community system.
- **For HUD and Other Funders**—Improved information about system and system needs for funding, decision-making and policy.
- **For the General Community**—Better information about people who are experiencing homelessness, the causes and the trends and future needs which will help the general

community to better plan for affordable housing and support for people who are at-risk of becoming or returning to homelessness; better information about housing and support needs will enable interested parties to better market these needs to potential funders and policy-makers. HUD expects that all CoCs will make substantial progress toward meeting the Congressional direction for full implementation of HMIS by October 2004, and all recipients of HUD McKinney-Vento Act program funds are expected to participate in an HMIS.

Statewide Homeless Project Evaluation System

During 2003, the three Continua of Care collaborated and obtained a grant from HUD to develop a statewide outcome based homeless project evaluation system. The goal of the Program Evaluation System is to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of homeless projects, identify best practices, and provide feedback to projects to support continuing improvement.

Representatives met during 2003 to research best practices, receive input from homeless service providers and to develop a common approach to evaluation of homeless services projects, with an emphasis on McKinney-Vento funded projects. Provisions will also be made for local flexibility in the approach to evaluation and priority decision-making. It is also the intent that such an evaluation approach will be applicable to most homeless housing and service programs.

The project has resulted in the development of an evaluation tool, successfully piloted 2004. Results of the pilot were compiled and data provided to the three Continua of Care with the goal of full implementation in 2005.

Statewide Advocacy Organizations

There are several statewide organizations in Arizona, which have at least as part of their mission, a concern for homeless individuals or a specific population of homeless individuals. These include:

- **Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV)**
The Coalition was formed in 1980, “to develop a system of networking among domestic violence programs, professional, and interested citizens throughout Arizona. The goals of ACADV are to increase awareness of domestic violence, and to reduce violence in our state.” By definition, residents of domestic violence shelters are considered homeless. Two of the primary needs of individuals and families residing in domestic violence shelters are transitional and permanent housing.
- **Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH)**
The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) was formed in the early 1990’s when advocates realized the need for a statewide, membership-based, advocacy group to coordinate efforts throughout Arizona. In 1998, the ACEH achieved 501 (c)(3) status from the IRS, and the first Executive Director was hired. The organization’s mission is to strengthen the capacity of local communities in their efforts to end homelessness through leadership, advocacy and technical assistance. It accomplishes that mission by maintaining a presence at the Legislature, participating in the Continua of Care planning processes, organizing statewide training at an annual conference, and coordinating local communities’ advocacy efforts.
- **Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA)**
The Arizona Community Action Association was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1967 in response to a need for a statewide forum to address issues

relating to poverty. Through its membership, ACAA brings together public officials, low-income persons, representatives of the private sector and human service providers to share common concerns and to develop strategies to resolve poverty problems that are statewide rather than local in nature.

- **Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB)**

The Association of Arizona Food Banks was formed in 1984 and supports a cooperative network of member food banks, food pantries and other organizations that work, cost-effectively and efficiently to collect, store, transport and distribute food to hungry people throughout the state. The Association sees its mission as strengthening communities to build an Arizona where all people are well nourished.

- **Children's Action Alliance (CAA)**

The Children's Action Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well being of all of Arizona's children and families. The CAA works to educate the public and policymakers about children's needs and to promote effective strategies to improve the lives of children and their families. CAA is presently working toward identifying potential community housing opportunities, which can help diminish the homeless condition of youth ages 18-21 who are discharged from foster care. The population of young people exiting foster care is particularly vulnerable. Current research indicates disadvantages for this group is multi-faceted, difficult to overcome, and affordable, safe, concrete housing options are often unavailable.

- **Community Development Coalition of Arizona (CDCA)**

The Community Development Coalition of Arizona (CDCA) is a 70-member organization of non-profits, for-profits, and governments dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods and increasing housing options for all people. CDCA supports its members by educating the public and leaders on issues of neighborhood building and the creation of affordable communities and by advocating increased funding for organizations creating housing opportunities for all citizens of Arizona.

Through the efforts of the CDCA, community leaders and the public can understand community economic development and the issue of housing affordability. CDCA works with the legislature and through ballot initiatives to address ongoing community economic development and housing affordability opportunities (relating to rental and home ownership), amass pools of readily accessible capital for the building and maintenance of housing that is affordable, and work collaboratively with public, private, and governmental entities to complete projects. CDCA envisions that by the end of the decade there will be a statewide approach for the comprehensive building of healthy, vibrant, and diverse communities complete with well designed and built housing that is affordable.

- **Governor's Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee**

This Committee is authorized by A.R.S. § 41-2021 (A). The primary task of the Committee is to "establish guidelines for the expenditure of fund monies to provide homeless shelter services." ADES staff the Committee.

- **Local Advocacy Organizations**

In addition to the Continua of Care, there are many other local groups, agencies and organizations in Arizona that have been advocating for and assisting in developing programs to assist homeless people. Many of these organizations also participate in local Continua of Care planning processes.

The Homeless Coordination Office
Arizona Department of Economic Security
P.O. Box 6123, Site Code 086Z
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

Phone (602) 542-9949 or 1-800-582-5706

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting the Homeless Coordination Office at 602-542-9949 or toll-free at 1-800-582-5706.



Arizona Department of Economic Security
Quality Service, Organizational Pride,
Client Self-Sufficiency

CSA-1030ASRLPD (1-05)