HOMELESSNESS IN ARIZONA
ANNUAL REPORT
2018

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Michael Trailor, Director
December 31, 2018

Prepared by:
Homeless Coordination Office
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Division of Aging and Adult Services

Executive Summary:

We are pleased to provide the Annual Report on Homelessness which presents an overview of information from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Homeless Coordination Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

The causes and factors that lead to homelessness are complex; however, there are consistent, identifiable, and contributing factors for both individuals and families in urban and rural communities. Conditions such as physical and behavioral health issues, domestic violence, and substance abuse contribute to homelessness. Diverse strategies, approaches and coordination are necessary to assist individuals experiencing homelessness to regain their independence.

In State Fiscal Year (SFY 2018), the DES Homeless Coordination Office provided over 13,290 at-risk and homeless individuals with homeless services and/or interventions, through contracted vendors. DES has contracted homeless interventions in ten of the fifteen counties throughout Arizona, and strives to provide homeless services to every area in need.

Sincerely,

Michael Trailor
Director
Arizona Department of Economic Security

Arizona Department of Economic Security Homeless Coordination Office

The Annual Report on Homelessness in Arizona has been prepared pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1954 (A) (19) (g). This report provides information about homelessness in Arizona during SFY 2018. The report attempts to recognize the similarities and differences in demographic characteristics of subgroups that make up the homeless population, as well as the similarities and differences in the issues that impact homelessness in the three Continuums of Care (COC).

In Arizona, the State's homeless services are divided into three service areas which are referred to as COC. Arizona's three COC are Maricopa and Pima counties and the Balance of State (BOS). The BOS continuum consists of the areas of Arizona outside of Maricopa and Pima counties.

Information and data for this report are derived from the following sources:
- Annual Point-In-Time surveys, conducted January 23, 2018.
- The State's three COC aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).
- Contract reports submitted to the DES Homeless Coordination Office.

All references to SFY 2018 refer to the time frame of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Statewide Data

In Arizona, homeless service providers and funding agencies utilize the HMIS to manage and store data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Homeless service providers upload homeless data into HMIS and the data is reviewed by planning committees, funding agencies and The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Homeless service providers and funding agencies use the homeless data to adjust services to meet the needs of the homeless within each community.
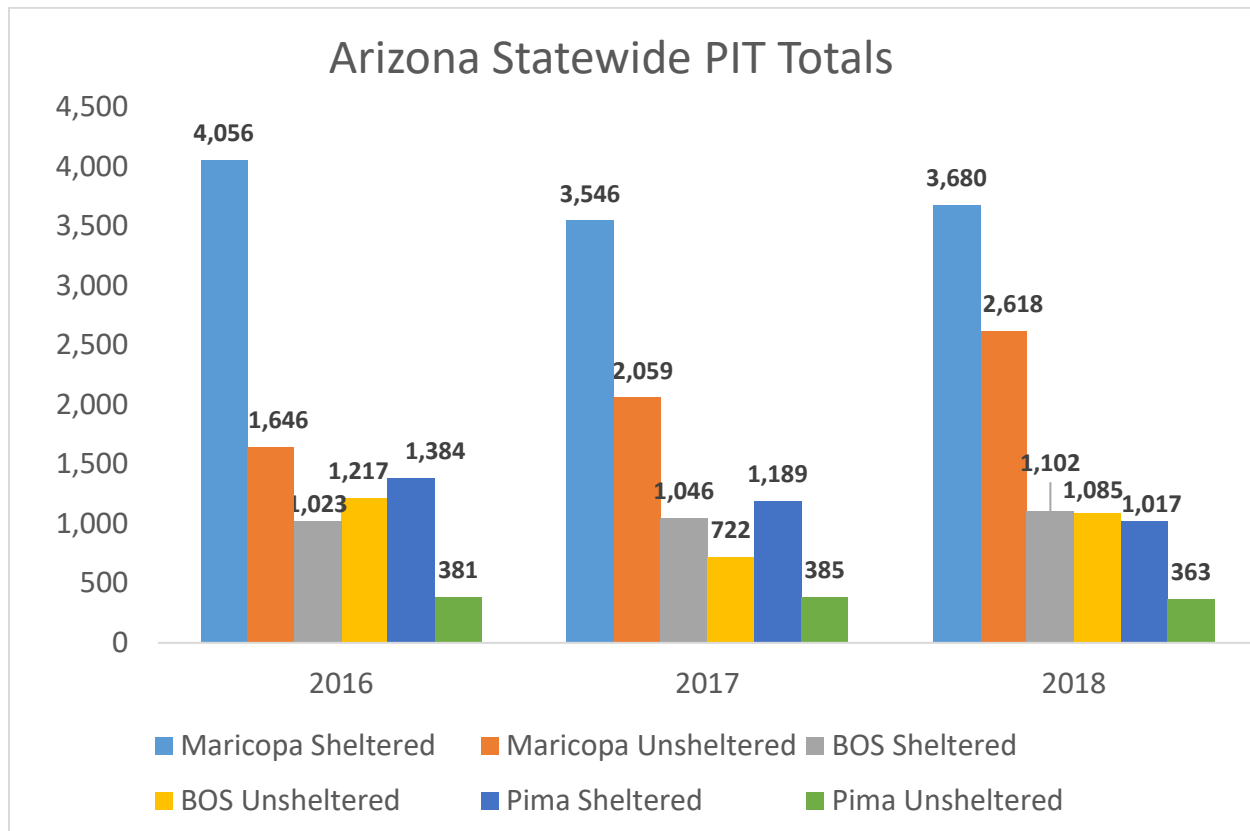
HUD further analyzes HMIS information to adjust federal funding to fill service gaps in communities nationwide. HUD also compiles the data to provide nationwide reports and statistics on homelessness in the U.S. The chart below illustrates the HMIS estimated SFY 2018 total number of individuals that are homeless in each continua and the estimated population in 2017 for each continua.

Continua	Census Population	HMIS # Homeless	% of Population
Maricopa County	4,307,033	20,350	.5%
Balance of State	1,686,468	5,215	.3%
Pima County	1,022,769	4,673	.5%
Totals	7,016,270	30,238	.4%

Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is intended to be an unduplicated count of homeless individuals and families conducted on one night, every January. The count is conducted to acquire an estimated number of individuals that are homeless at a point in time in each community. PIT counts are conducted by homeless programs across the U.S. After the results are calculated, HUD requires COCs to send the results to HUD for review.
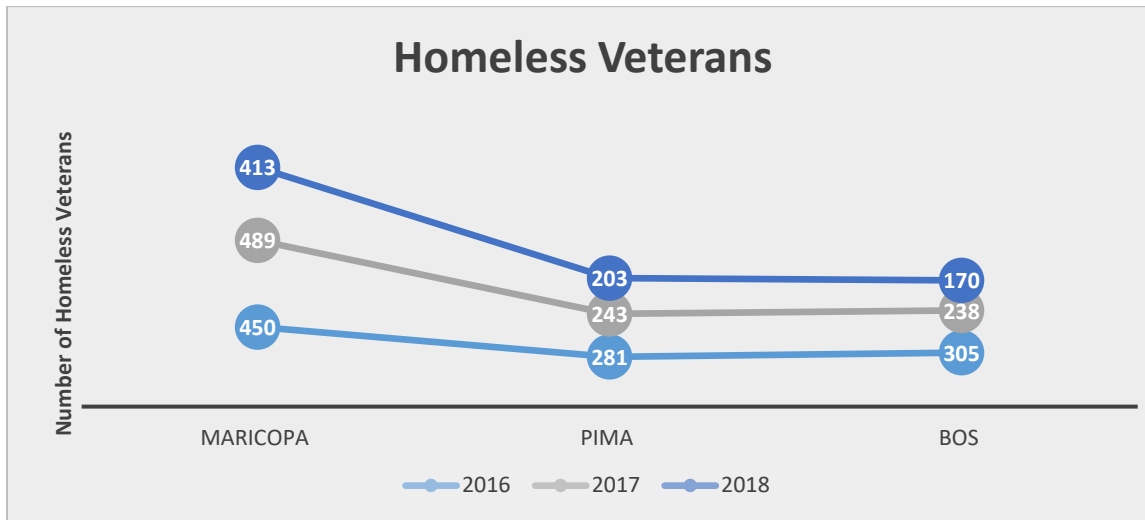
The graph below depicts Sheltered and Unsheltered PIT totals from the three continuums over a two-year period.

Veteran PIT Estimates

During the annual PIT count in 2018, there were 786 veterans identified as homeless statewide. Over the last three years, veteran homelessness has been on a steady decline. Arizona communities, through collaborative efforts, have demonstrated that ending veteran homelessness is possible. Ending veteran homelessness or reaching functional zero, does not mean that veterans will no longer experience homelessness. Reaching functional zero for veterans means that when a veteran has a housing crisis, our communities have the systems and resources in place to immediately identify and support the veteran to end their homelessness.
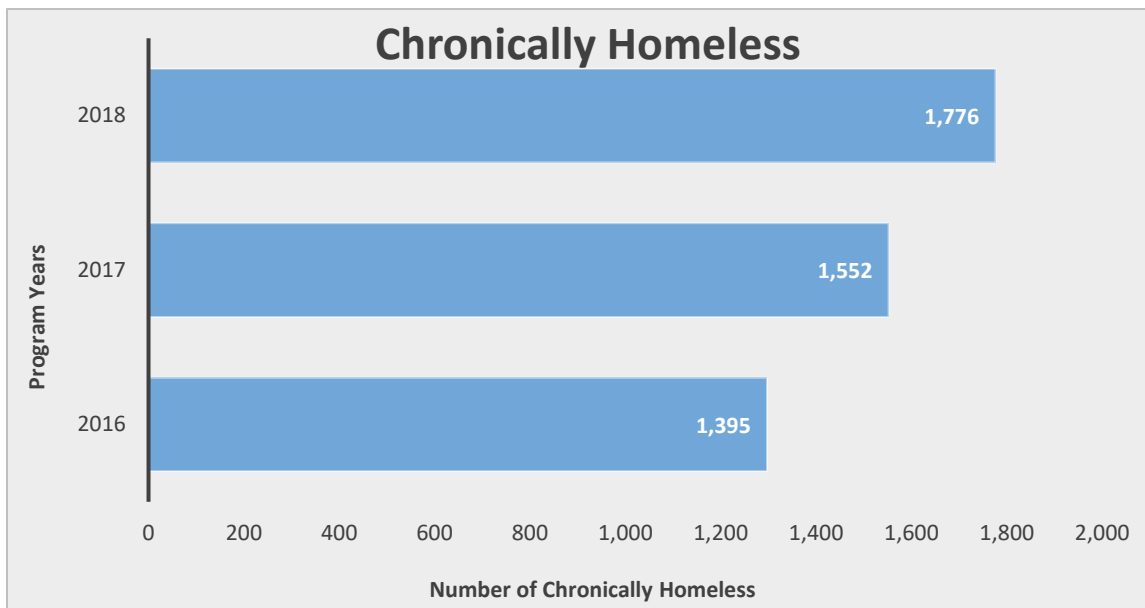
The graph below illustrates the decline in veteran homelessness in each continua over the course of three years.
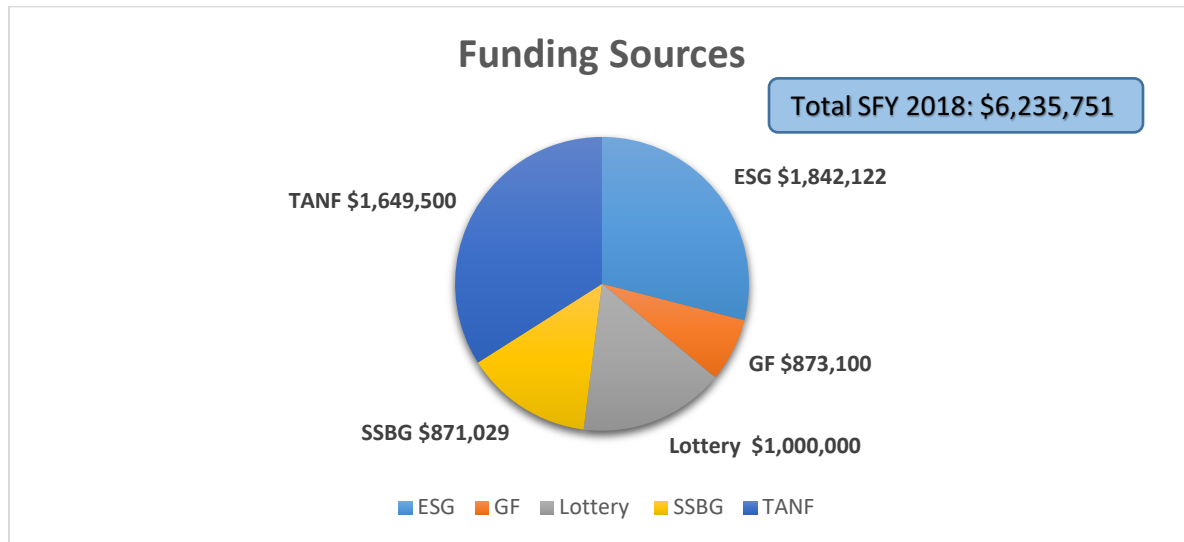

Chronically Homeless PIT Estimates

Chronic homelessness is defined as individuals or families that have experienced homelessness more than four times in the past three years or have been homeless for one continuous year or longer.

The graph below displays the increase in the number of chronically homeless individuals during the PIT count statewide over a three-year period.

Funding

The DES Homeless Coordination Office utilizes Federal and State dollars to fund homeless services statewide. The funding sources include the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), General Funding (GF), AZ State Lottery, Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Funding Sources

Total SFY 2018: $6,235,751

TANF $1,649,500

ESG $1,842,122

GF $873,100

Lottery $1,000,000

SSBG $871,029

■ ESG ■ GF ■ Lottery ■ SSBG ■ TANF

Interventions and Placements

The four homeless interventions available to assist individuals are Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES), Homeless Prevention (HP) and Street Outreach (SO). In Arizona, TES is the most utilized intervention.

In 2018, HUD began requiring federally funded homeless programs to utilize a coordinated entry process. The coordinated entry process helps communities prioritize homeless assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most receive it in a timely manner.

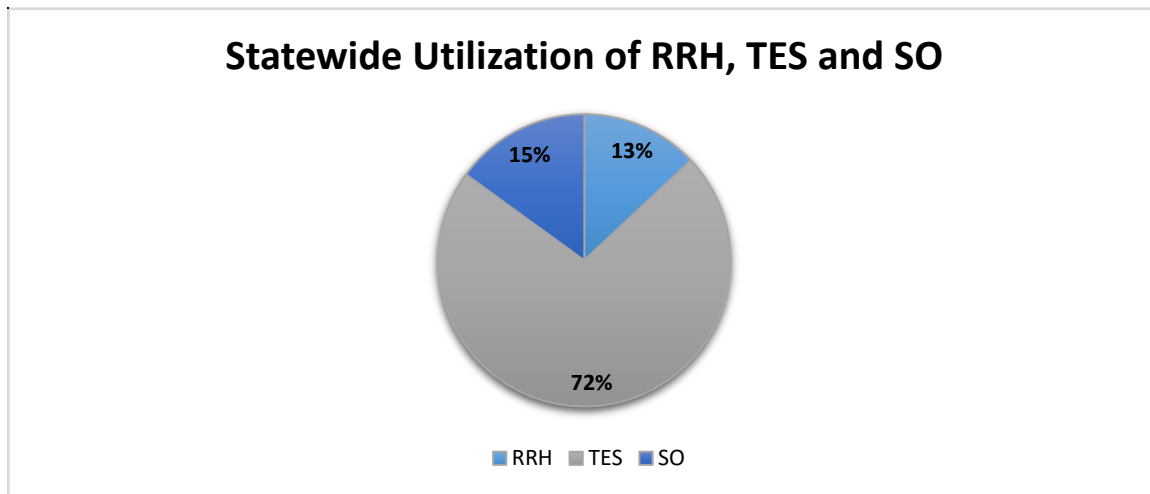**Coordinated Entry and Housing First**

The coordinated entry process sends referrals to all homeless services providers receiving ESG and COC program funds, including TES, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), RRH and Transitional Housing (TH), as well as other housing and homelessness providers.

DES contracted homeless service providers also operate under the Housing First philosophy. Housing First is an approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness first, and only after housing is secured, the individual or families' social problems are addressed.

TES, RRH, HP and SO are the most widely used interventions. DES contracted TES programs provide sleeping accommodations, case management, meals and supportive wrap around services designed to assist individuals and families. The contracted RRH programs provide case
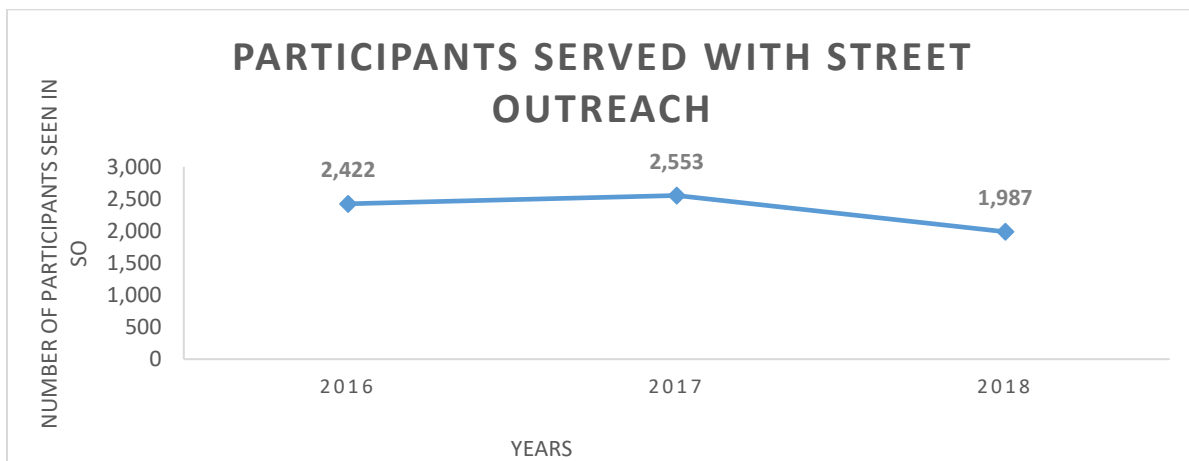
management and financial assistance to participants to cover deposits, utilities, and rent to stabilize participants into permanent housing. SO is an intervention that involves homeless service providers going out into the community to meet with homeless individuals where they reside to provide resources.

The graph depicts the percentage of utilization for RRH, TES and SO DES contracted interventions during SFY 2018. Homeless prevention is not included in this chart because the funding is less than one percent of the overall funding.

Statewide Utilization of RRH, TES and SO

15%   13%

72%

■ RRH ■ TES ■ SO
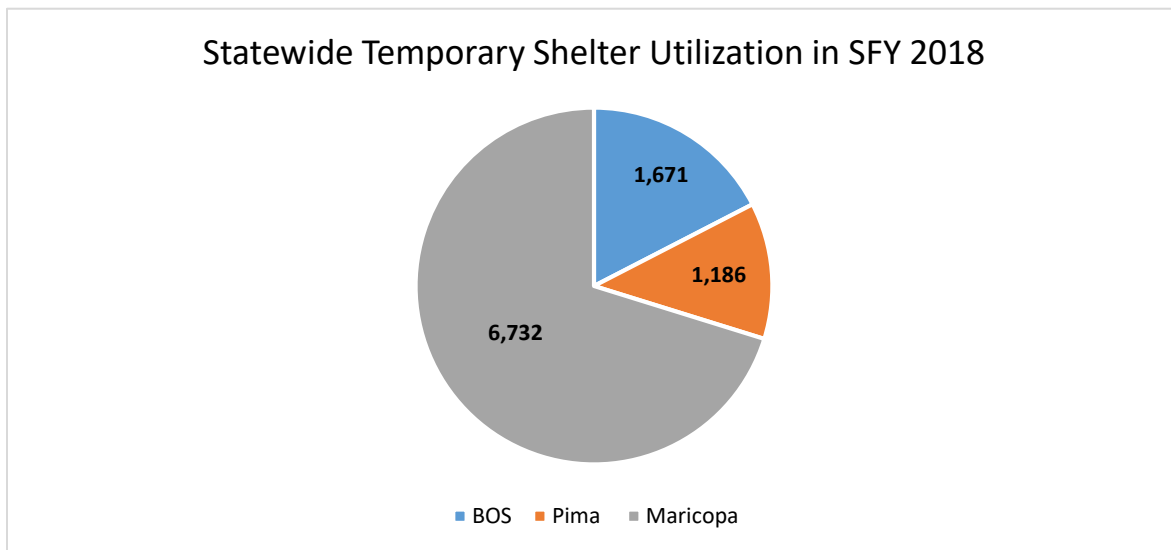
Street Outreach (SO)

Street Outreach workers engage with individuals who may be disconnected or alienated from mainstream services. The graph below depicts the number of individuals served statewide through DES contracted SO providers over a three-year period beginning in 2016.

PARTICIPANTS SERVED WITH STREET OUTREACH

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SEEN IN SO

2,422   2,553   1,987

3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0

2016   2017   2018
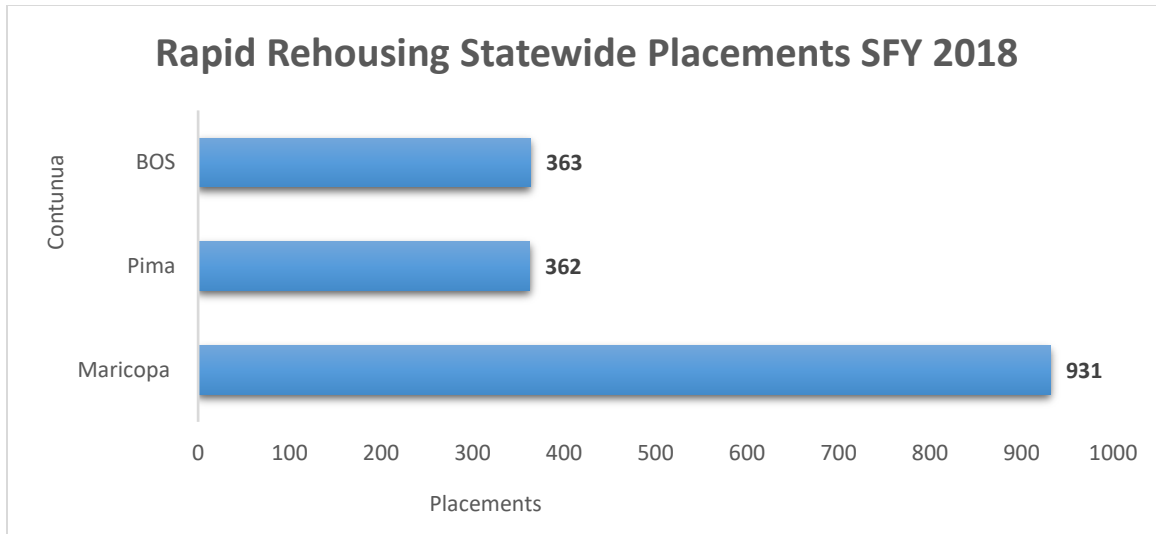
YEARS

Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES)

TES is used to shelter individuals and households experiencing homelessness while permanent housing is secured. Temporary shelter may include emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a hotel or motel only when an emergency shelter is unavailable. During SFY 2018, DES contracted TES providers statewide served 9,589 individuals.

The graph below depicts the total number served in temporary shelter for each continuum during SFY 2018.

Statewide Temporary Shelter Utilization in SFY 2018

1,671
1,186
6,732

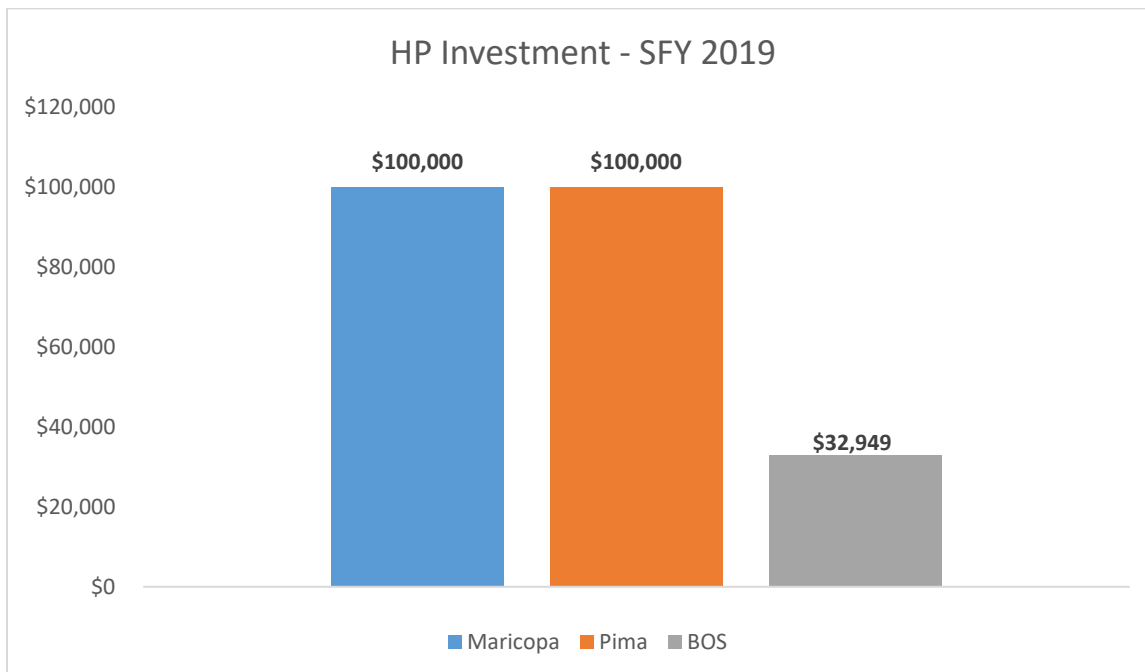BOS ■ Pima ■ Maricopa

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

RRH places a priority on moving families and individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Typically, this is within 30 days of entering the program. The graph below illustrates the number of DES contracted RRH placements statewide for SFY 2018.

Rapid Rehousing Statewide Placements SFY 2018

Special Initiatives

HP is an intervention that aids in preventing individuals and families from losing their current housing. The program provides a variety of assistance that includes: short-term rental assistance, rental or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and crisis case management.

Beginning in SFY 2019, the DES Homeless Coordination Office has allocated HP funding to the three COCs. The graph below depicts the HP dollars invested in each of the three continuums.

HP Investment - SFY 2019

Affordable Housing

The lack of affordable housing plays a significant role in the increase of evictions throughout Arizona. Housing is considered affordable when the cost of the chosen housing unit is thirty percent or less of the renter's income. An estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households now spend more than 50 percent of their annual incomes on housing. Renters that spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. An affordable housing GAP analysis completed by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) in 2017 illustrated that Arizona has 26 affordable housing units for every 100 low income renter households. Nationwide, there are 35 affordable housing units for every 100 low income renters.

The Funders Collaborative and the Temporary Overflow Shelter

The Funders Collaborative is a strategic planning committee that involves a collaboration between DES, Valley of the Sun United Way, Arizona Department of Housing, City of Phoenix and the Maricopa County Human Services Department. This collaborative ensures that all available resources are utilized effectively and efficiently towards the goal of creating or implementing long-term solutions to end homelessness.

Since 2015, the temporary overflow shelter, managed by St. Vincent De Paul, housed up to 250 homeless individuals and families a night. The Collaborative has spent close to $3.5 million to support this temporary solution, covered security, staffing and utility expenses. In late 2017, the Collaborative agreed to redirect funding to create sustainable solutions for permanent housing. In January 2018, coordination among St. Vincent De Paul, Human Services Campus, Lodestar Day Resource Center, Community Bridges Incorporated (CBI), and A New Leaf began to phase out the overflow, with an end goal of September 30, 2018. The Collaborative identified 240 of the most vulnerable long-term occupants and arranged alternative housing solutions.

As of October 1, 2018, 169 received shelter through alternative programs, 53 were housed through RRH or PSH, 24 individuals refused all services and 82 individuals no longer use St. Vincent de Paul or other programs.

Arizona StandDown Alliance

The StandDown is an annual, one to three-day event that provides resources for homeless or veterans at–risk of becoming homeless. During SFY 2018, StandDown providers and volunteers served 3,099 veterans. Events were held in the following counties:

- Cochise
- Coconino
- Graham
- Greenlee
- Maricopa
- Mohave
- Navajo
- Pima
- Pinal
- Yavapai
- Yuma

Resources:

ARIZONA STANDDOWN ALLIANCE/Arizona Veterans StandDown:
https://azhousingcoalition.org/avsa

AZ 2018 updated Action plan to end veterans' homelessness:
https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Amended-2018-2019-AAPlan-8-15-18_0.pdf

Arizona StandDown Alliance, Veterans' StandDown:

https://azhousingcoalition.org/resources/Documents/Yuma%20County%20After%20Action%20Report%202018.pdf

Balance of State PIT results:
https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/2018-PIT-Summary-Corrected-5-14-18.pdf

HUD, Affordable Housing:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/

Maricopa 2018 PIT results:
http://azmag.gov/Portals/0/Documents/MagContent/HSCIC_2018-05-31_Homeless-PIT-Count-Overview.pdf?ver=2018-05-31-071406-327

National Low Income Housing Coalition, The Gap a shortage to Affordable Homes:
https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_2017.pdf

National Low income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing:

https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/OOR17_MembersLaunch_Webinar_060917.pdf

Pima 2018 PIT results:
https://www.tpch.net/uploads/1/4/0/0/14008364/2018_pit_complete_report.pdf

United States Census Bureau, Maricopa County population estimate:

https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/maricopacountyarizona/PST045217

United States Census Bureau, Pima County population estimate:

https://www.census.gov/search results.html?q=Pima+County%2C+AZ&page=1&stateGeo=none&searchtype=web&cssp=Typeahead