

Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona



15th Annual Report—December 2006

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Introduction

Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1954, 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.

Information and data for this report are derived from several sources including an annual point-in-time survey conducted January 24, 2006, Arizona Department of Education data on homeless students, and emergency shelter and transitional housing contractor reports submitted to the DES Office of Community Services. All references to state fiscal year 2006 refer to the time frame from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

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.

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” [42U.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)” [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) A.R.S. § 46-241(5) defines homelessness as “*no permanent place of residence where a lease or mortgage agreement between the participant and the owner exists.*”

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.

Did You Know?

There may be as many as 30,000 people experiencing homelessness in Arizona on any given day.

The 2006 Annual Street & Shelter Count documented 10,094 people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa county and 3,111 in Pima county in one day alone.

Homeless School Liaisons identified 18,053 homeless children/youth throughout the state during academic year 2005-2006.

Approximately 10% of the homeless population is made up of chronically homeless individuals.

Approximately 37% of sheltered families in Arizona report having a history of domestic violence.

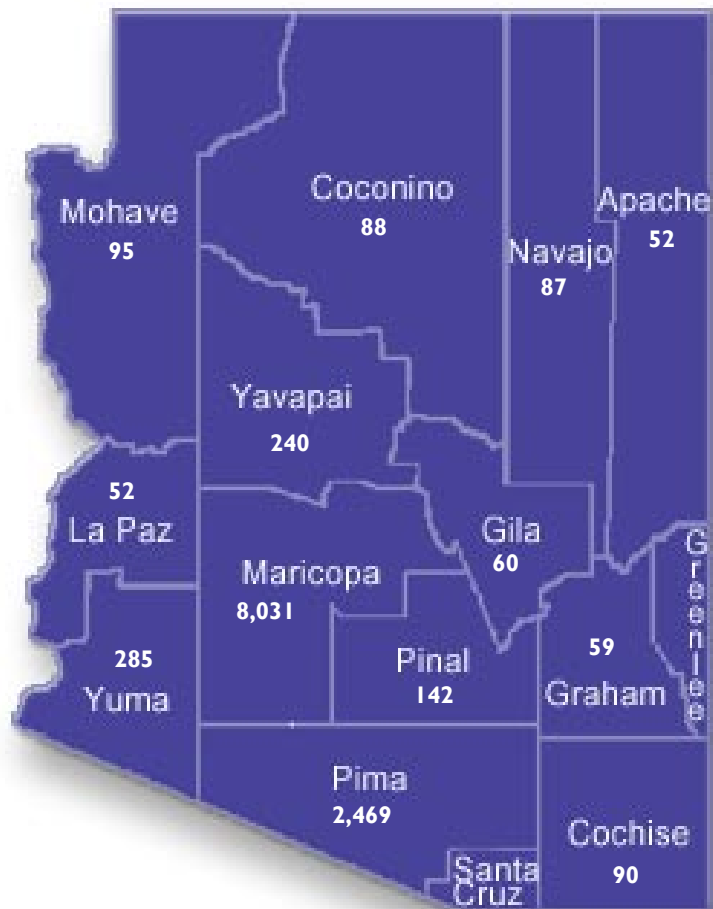
The Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless completed its Plan to End Homelessness in the Spring of 2006.

There are approximately 180 emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in Arizona, comprising an estimated total of 9,170 beds.

In Arizona, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$5.15. In order to afford the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 112 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

Stats at a Glance

Homeless service providers throughout the state conducted an Annual Shelter Count on January 24, 2006. The numbers included in the map to the right reflect a count of people residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing on the specified date by county.



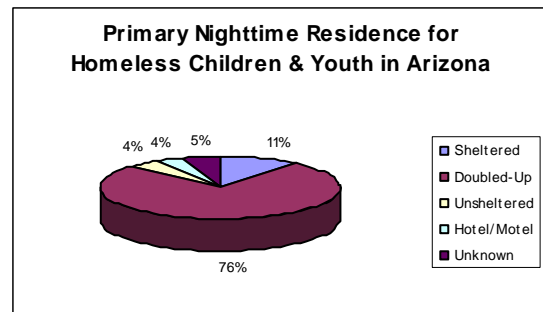
Homeless Youth Data

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.

Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) is included in No Child Left Behind as Title X-C. The 2002 reauthorization requires that children and youths experiencing homelessness are immediately enrolled in school and have educational opportunities equal to those of their non-homeless peers. The statute requires every public school district and charter holder to designate a Homeless Liaison to ensure that homeless students are identified and their needs are being met. The data shown here is provided by the 635 Homeless School Liaisons throughout Arizona from academic year 2005-2006.

Grade Level	Number of Homeless Children/ Youth
K	2,179
1	1,970
2	1,834
3	1,668
4	1,636
5	1,552
6	1,462
7	1,326
8	1,286
9	1,346
10	1,104
11	853
12	906

Grade Level	Number of homeless children/youth taking reading assessment test	Number of homeless children/youth that met or exceeded state proficiency
3	810	457
4	777	431
5	737	337
6	668	268
7	580	233
8	613	217
9	NA	NA
10	487	191
11	NA	NA
12	NA	NA



The most prominent barrier to the enrollment and success of children/youth experiencing homelessness is transportation.

Grade Level	Number of homeless children/youth taking mathematics assessment test	Number of homeless children/youth that met or exceeded state proficiency
3	826	376
4	776	319
5	738	324
6	669	272
7	581	237
8	613	230
9	NA	NA
10	355	153
11	NA	NA
12	NA	NA

Note: Data reflects the 2005-2006 academic school year

Efforts to End Homelessness

Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness (ICCH)

Governor Janet Napolitano created the Arizona Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness and issued an Executive Order to that effect on June 5, 2004. The purpose of the Interagency and Community Council is to guide the development and implementation of a state level plan to end homelessness for Arizonans with a focus on families who are homeless. The Interagency and Community Council will identify policy, practice and funding actions that can be taken at the State level to prevent and to 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 Tracy Wareing, 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.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Over the past several years, Congress has directed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist local jurisdictions in implementing 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. *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, and all recipients of HUD McKinney-Vento Act program funds are expected to participate in an HMIS. The Three CoCs continue to work towards full participation.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

Arizona was one of thirteen states awarded the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Assess, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Initiative, an intensive technical assistance opportunity, sponsored by the Policy Academy Federal funding partners including HUD, HHS/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The project is a service integration activity targeted to increasing access to SSA disability programs (Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance) for people who are homeless.

In fact, 46% of people who are homeless are estimated to be eligible due to physical health conditions. Only about 11% of people who are homeless are receiving these benefits. Only 37% of all people who apply for SSI are approved upon initial application. These figures are much lower for people with mental illnesses, people with co-occurring disorders, especially if they have been homeless for an extended period of time. The objectives include:

The State of Arizona's planned approach to increasing access to SSA disability programs utilizing SAMHSA's Stepping Stones for Recovery curriculum incorporates three communities in collaboration with the Regional Continuum of Care, the Day Resource Center/Human Services Campus – a one-stop multi-service center for chronically homeless persons – Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless and Mohave County PATH Outreach team. State partners include the Arizona Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services and DES Office of Community Services. Anticipated outcomes include increased efficiency in application and documentation process, increased documentation of disability in order to reduce the need for consultative exams, reduction of appeals, and projected savings due to recoupment of Medicaid and state-funded General Assistance.

Arizona Evaluation Project

Begun in 2003 as a collaborative effort between the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the three regional Continua of Care, the Arizona Evaluation Project is an outcome-based system of evaluating the effectiveness and performance of homeless projects. The system utilizes a self-sufficiency matrix that has been tested for validity and reliability and provides a means of identifying and replicating best practices, providing feedback to practitioners, targeting technical assistance and developing funding priorities.

In the fall of 2005, the Arizona Department of Economic Security incorporated use of the self-sufficiency matrix into contracts for transitional housing services. Each transitional shelter project will provide data on clients at entry, quarterly, and at exit. In addition, the Continua of Care will implement use of the matrix through regional planning efforts. Analysis of data collected through a pilot conducted in 2003 suggests two possible scoring systems. One system produces measures of independence, dysfunction, and child functioning while the other measures self-sufficiency and community connectedness. As the evaluation project is rolled-out statewide, continued analysis will continue to refine the model and will serve to determine which solution is superior in the larger dataset.

Descriptions of State Programs/Sources

Department of Housing

Arizona Housing Finance Authority (AzHFA)

Bond capacity of \$36M; homeownership assistance obtained through participating lenders, rental development assistance directly to/from AzHFA; does not serve Maricopa or Pima Counties as those counties have their own industrial development authorities that receive applications directly for bond financing.

Community Development Block Grant

Awarded to local units of governments and non-profits in rural areas of the state; application made through Councils of Government.

HOME Investment Partnership

For- and non-profits and local units of government apply directly to Department; different application deadlines for different activities.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS

Primarily used for rental assistance for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Capital source for rental development or rehabilitation; available statewide; application deadlines throughout the year.

State Housing Trust Fund (HTF)

Awarded to local units of government and non-profits statewide; different application deadlines for different activities; one-time operating grants available for capital projects funded with the HTF.

McKinney Vento

Awarded through Continuum of Care process.

Department of Corrections

Drug Treatment & Education Fund

Funded by spirits taxes; may be used for rental assistance and wrap-around services; specific to offenders with a history of substance abuse released to supervision.

Job Developers

Provide employment and referral services to supervised offenders in Maricopa and Pima Counties.

Accountability Program

Specific to non-violent, non-sex offenders who are homeless and have violated conditions of supervision, pilot program.

Department of Economic Security

Community Services Block Grant

Awarded through contracts with designated Community Action Agencies; used to address the needs of low-income individuals to ameliorate the causes and conditions of poverty.

Domestic Violence Prevention

Awarded through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process; funds counseling, shelter,

transportation, transitional housing, and childcare for victims of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Shelter Fund

Allocated using a funding formula; funds emergency domestic violence shelters, advocacy, and support services for victims of domestic violence.

Emergency Shelter Grant

Awarded through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process; primarily used to fund rehabilitation and operating expenses of shelters; some prevention and essential social services are allowable expenses, staff costs are not.

Homeless Trust Fund

Services funded are based on priorities set by the Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Awarded through contracts with agencies designated to receive energy assistance funding; provides energy assistance in the form of a utility payment or deposit once in a twelve-month period; also provides weatherization assistance.

Social Services Block Grant

Awarded through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process; also known as Title XX; a portion of the funds have been allocated specifically for services to domestic violence victims in addition to general homelessness.

State Homeless Line Item

Awarded through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process; used to defray the cost of shelter facilities, services, and motel vouchers.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Awarded through contracts with agencies designated to receive energy assistance funding; both service providers and individuals may apply to DES for TANF funds; used for homeless and domestic violence services that include prevention, move-in assistance, and case management services.

Department of Health Services

Arizona Department of Health Services/Regional Behavioral Health Authority (ADHS/RBHA) Homeless Clinic

Service funding for Washington House in Phoenix – a regional behavioral health authority (RHBA) operated for the homeless diagnosed with a Seriously Mentally Illness (SMI).

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

Allocated on a per-capita basis to the five Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to provide mental health services to children with serious emotional disturbances (90%) and adults with serious mental illness (10%).

Community Placement

Awarded to RHBAs through a competitive bid process; used to support communal living for those with an SMI enrolled in a RHBA.

Correctional Officer Offenders Liaisons

Developed in partnership with the Arizona Department of Corrections; used to fund 20 transitional living units for homeless substance abusers released from state prisons through RHBA's.

Projects for Assistance in Transition From Homelessness

Used to provide an array of services to persons with serious mental illness who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless; eligible activities include screening and diagnostic services, emergency assistance, and case management.

Rural Safe Home Network

Federal formula grant funded through the Family Violence Prevention Act; awarded through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process; restricted to rural Arizona; eligible activities include temporary, emergency, safe shelter and related services for victims of domestic violence.

Shelter + Care Service Match

Awarded statewide through local continuum of care.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant

Used to provide services for alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention services; the five Regional Behavioral Health Authorities and the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority manage service delivery.

Department of Public Safety**Victims of Crime Act**

Federal formula grant awarded to non-profits and local units of government agencies that provide direct services to crime victims; primary presenting issue must be a victim of crime.

Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families**Violence Against Women Formula Grant**

Awarded to non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs through a competitive grant process; emphasis is on implementation of comprehensive strategies addressing violence against women that are sensitive to the needs and safety of victims.

Financial Resources to Prevent and End Homelessness in Arizona

AGENCY ADMINISTERING FUNDS	PROGRAM/SOURCE	CAPITAL, OPERATING, OR SERVICES	HOMELESS SPECIFIC	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES				CHILDREN & YOUTH	FAMILIES	VETERANS	OFFENDERS	VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	AGING	TRIBES	FUNDING ALLOCATION (FY 05)
				SUBSTANCE ABUSE	MENTAL ILLNESS	SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL (SMI)	HIV/AIDS								
Department of Housing	Arizona Housing Finance Authority	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	See Description	
	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	C, O, S		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		\$13,432,908	
	HOME Investment Partnership Program	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		\$8,764,320	
	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	C, O, S					X							\$164,000	
	Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$12,172,095	
	State Housing Trust Fund	C, O		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$23,946,921	
	McKinney Vento	C, O, S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$ 9,272,223	
	Drug Treatment & Education Fund (DTEF)	O, S		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	\$2,200,000	
	Job Developers	S		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	\$113,437	
	Accountability Program	S		X	X					X	X	X	X	\$0 (Funded through DTEF)	

Financial Resources to Prevent and End Homelessness in Arizona

AGENCY ADMINISTERING FUNDS	PROGRAM/SOURCE	CAPITAL, OPERATING, OR SERVICES	HOMELESS SPECIFIC	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES				CHILDREN & YOUTH	FAMILIES	VETERANS	OFFENDERS	VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	AGING	TRIBES	FUNDING ALLOCATION (FY 05)
				SUBSTANCE ABUSE	MENTAL ILLNESS	SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL (SMI)	HIV/AIDS								
Department of Health Services	Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHS)	S				X								\$7,863,945	
	Community Placement (Non-T19)	C,O,S				X		X		X				\$4,684,133	
	Correction Officer Offender Liaisons (COOL)	O,S				X				X				\$194,400	
	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	S	X			X		X						\$1,306,667	
	Rural Safe Home Network	O,S							X					\$1,685,611	
	Shelter + Care Service Match	X	X				X							\$9,000,000	
	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT)	S				X								\$31,857,026	
Department of Public Safety	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	S						X			X			\$6,600,000	
Governor's Office of Children, Youth & Families	Violence Against Women Formula Grant (STOP)	O,S												\$1,309,751	

For More Information

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Office of Community Services
www.de.state.az.us/csa/programs/homeless

Arizona Department of Education
Education of Homeless Children & Youth
www.ade.state.az.us/asd/homeless

Arizona Department of Corrections
www.adc.state.az.us

Arizona Department of Health Services
Division of Behavioral Health Services
www.azdhs.gov/bhs

Arizona Department of Housing
www.housingaz.com

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
www.juvenile.state.az.us

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
www.azdvs.gov

Governor's Interagency & Community Council on
Homelessness
www.housingaz.com/ICCH

Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
www.governor.state.az.us/cyf

Maricopa Association of Governments
www.mag.maricopa.gov

Pima County Homeless Management Information
System
www.azinfo.org/hmis

Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless
www.tpch.org

Maricopa County Homeless Management
Information System
www.cir.org

Advocacy Organizations

Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.azcadv.org

Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
www.azceh.org

Arizona Community Action Association
www.aaaa.org

Association of Arizona Food Banks
www.azfoodbanks.org

Children's Action Alliance
www.azchildren.org

Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
www.pafcoalition.org

Heather Ellis
The State 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
