



# **Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona**

**and Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness**

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report  
December 2005

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*Homelessness is wrong – morally, socially, spiritually and economically wrong. We need to apply the same moral common sense to homelessness in America – that it is understood that there should be a home for every American... and that every member of our community is known by the same name 'neighbor' – and treated like one.*

Philip Mangano  
Executive Director  
US Interagency Council on Homelessness

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the fourteenth annual report on homelessness in Arizona prepared pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1954(A)(19)(g). The report provides information about homelessness and 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 associated with 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, 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 describes data from the Arizona Department of Education on the number of youth experiencing homelessness in the state. Also, the educational achievement of these youth are described, showing alarming results in both reading and math proficiency for homeless youth.

Estimates of the number of people experiencing homelessness in Arizona vary. Based on actual shelter and street counts, 12,264 individuals were found to be homeless during a point-in-time count in January 2005. However, due to the difficulties in finding and counting homeless individuals and families, community groups throughout the state estimate there **may be as many as 20,000 – 30,000 homeless people in Arizona on any given day**, including persons who are in emergency shelters or transitional housing (7306 on January 25, 2005), 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 is a large number of households earning less than a livable wage who are at high risk of becoming homeless. Estimates from 2003 U.S. Census data indicate that 18 percent of families with children in Arizona (or 131,234 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 \$14.93 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 116 hours per week in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the area's Fair Market Rent (National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2004).

In approximately 180 emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in Arizona, there are an estimated 2,775 emergency beds and 6,395 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 an annual point-in-time survey conducted January 25, 2005, previous years' point-in-time survey data, Arizona Department of Education data on homeless students, 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 2005 refer to the time frame from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

## 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**

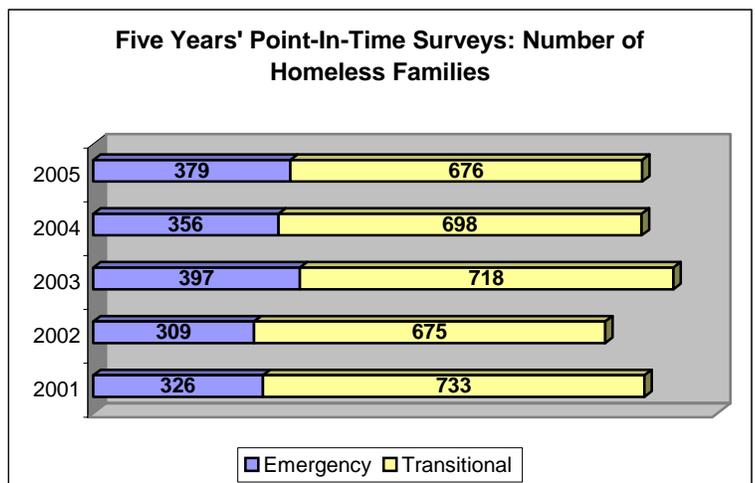
Elderly persons over the age of 65 are continuously increasing within the homeless population. The 2005 point-in-time survey indicated that there were 118 persons over the age of 65 in emergency shelters and transitional housing, a slight increase over the 115 counted in the previous year. It is believed however that many people do not indicate their age when they check into shelter, meaning that there are possibly many more elderly homeless persons than were counted this year.

**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 (HUD)]. During the January 25, 2005 shelter survey and street count, efforts were made to identify chronically homeless individuals in each of the three continua of care. In Maricopa County, there were 114 sheltered chronically homeless individuals and 680 unsheltered chronically homeless individuals counted. In Pima County, 302 chronically homeless individuals were identified in shelters and on the streets. Because of the difficulty in locating or identifying an unsheltered chronically homeless person, it is very likely that the true number is considerably higher. In the rural counties, the number of chronically homeless individuals has declined, most likely attributable to the consistent amount of permanent housing units added in the balance of state. On the day of the 2005 count, 252 chronically homeless individuals were identified in shelters or on the streets in rural Arizona.

**Families with Children**

The January 2005 point-in-time survey identified 379 families in emergency shelters and 676 families in transitional housing programs for a total of 1,055 homeless families in shelter on a given day. The average size of families in emergency shelter and transitional housing in January 2005 was 3.3 persons. In addition, agencies reported



that **225 families were turned away from emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in a one-day period in January 2005.**

**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 January 2005, there were 39 emergency shelter and 70 transitional housing beds allocated specifically 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. Data indicate that there were 71 youth under the age of 18 counted in emergency shelter, and in Maricopa County, 57 homeless youth were counted living on the street. There are many challenges with counting homeless youth, both in shelters and on the streets. Youth may lie about their age in order to get into an emergency shelter or are difficult to distinguish from adults during a street count conducted in the dark of night.

| <b>Categories of Homeless Youth: 2003 - 2005</b>                                                                                       | <b>Estimated Numbers</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Youth on their own under 18 who were residing in motels, shelters, or transitional housing on February 27, 2003 (point-in-time survey) | <b>77</b>                |
| Youth on their own under 18 who were residing in motels, shelters, or transitional housing on February 24, 2004 (point-in-time survey) | <b>78</b>                |
| Youth on their own under 18 who were residing in motels, shelters, or transitional housing on January 25, 2005 (point-in-time survey)  | <b>71</b>                |

The best information regarding the number of homeless youth is from data collected by school districts and reported to the Arizona Department of Education each year. Because homeless youth fit under a much broader definition of homelessness under McKinney-Vento legislation, many more homeless youth are counted each year than families and individuals, which have to adhere to the much stricter HUD definition of homelessness. As of September 19, 2005, there were 17,350 homeless youth identified in grades K-12 in Arizona schools. Maricopa County

students make up 12,119 of the total, while Pima County accounts for 2,176 youth and the balance of state accounts for the remaining 3,055 students.

The academic achievement of homeless youth is often discussed as there are significant issues associated with success for this population. One reason why academic achievement may be hampered is the frequency in which homeless youth switch schools. Within one year, 41% of homeless children will attend 2 different schools; 28% will attend 3 or more schools. Data indicate that children who change schools more than 3 times before the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are at least four times more likely to drop out of school, and students who move more than three times in a six-year period can fall one full academic year behind stable students.

The following charts show the proficiency levels experienced by homeless students on statewide assessments in reading and math during the 2004-2005 school year as reported by the Arizona Department of Education to the US Department of Education in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

| School Grade Levels * | a) <b>Reading</b> assessment by grade level (check boxes where appropriate; indicate "NA" for grade not assessed by State) | b) Number of homeless children/youth taking reading assessment test. | c) Number of homeless children/youth that met or exceeded state proficiency. |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grade 3               | X                                                                                                                          | 1450                                                                 | 551                                                                          |
| Grade 4               | X                                                                                                                          | 1345                                                                 | 480                                                                          |
| Grade 5               | X                                                                                                                          | 1231                                                                 | 476                                                                          |
| Grade 6               | X                                                                                                                          | 1092                                                                 | 393                                                                          |
| Grade 7               | X                                                                                                                          | 1005                                                                 | 389                                                                          |
| Grade 8               | X                                                                                                                          | 918                                                                  | 340                                                                          |
| Grade 9               | NA                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                              |
| Grade 10              | X                                                                                                                          | 600                                                                  | 265                                                                          |
| Grade 11              | NA                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                              |
| Grade 12              | NA                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                              |

| School Grade Levels * | a) <b>Mathematics</b> assessment by grade level (check boxes where appropriate; indicate "NA" for grade not assessed by State) | b) Number of homeless children/youth taking mathematics assessment test. | c) Number of homeless children/youth that met or exceeded state proficiency. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grade 3               | X                                                                                                                              | 1446                                                                     | 718                                                                          |
| Grade 4               | X                                                                                                                              | 1351                                                                     | 598                                                                          |
| Grade 5               | X                                                                                                                              | 1235                                                                     | 496                                                                          |
| Grade 6               | X                                                                                                                              | 1087                                                                     | 406                                                                          |
| Grade 7               | X                                                                                                                              | 998                                                                      | 380                                                                          |
| Grade 8               | X                                                                                                                              | 915                                                                      | 295                                                                          |
| Grade 9               | NA                                                                                                                             |                                                                          |                                                                              |
| Grade 10              | X                                                                                                                              | 588                                                                      | 225                                                                          |
| Grade 11              | NA                                                                                                                             |                                                                          |                                                                              |
| Grade 12              | NA                                                                                                                             |                                                                          |                                                                              |

## **Veterans**

Based on data gathered from the 2005 point-in-time surveys, 11.5 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 is 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.

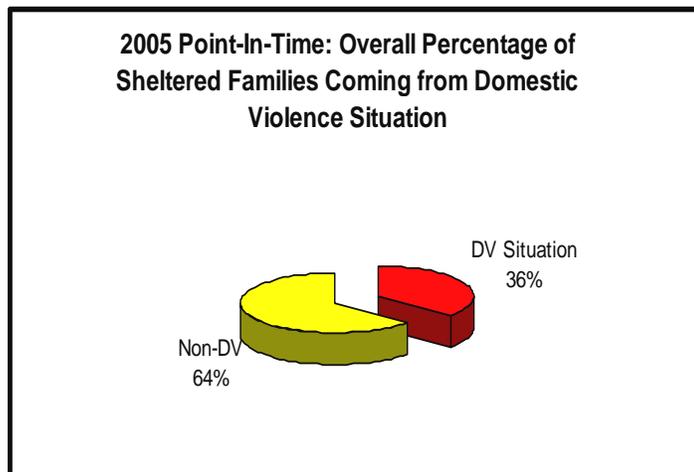
In Arizona, there are a small number of private non-profit transitional housing programs for veterans that account for approximately 250 beds. During the past six years, efforts by nonprofit providers to obtain funding from the Veterans Administration for homeless veterans have been successful. This 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 January 2005 point-in-time survey of shelters statewide indicated that 17 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. Agencies reported that 36 percent of persons in homeless families had a history of domestic violence. As noted in the Domestic Violence Shelter Services Arizona Annual Report for July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, staff and volunteers in 30 residential domestic violence shelters and safe home networks, responded to 23,216 hotline calls for emergency shelter and information and referral.

In addition, shelter was provided to 9,029 women and children, with an average length of stay in the shelter setting of approximately 25 days.

In FY 2004 (most recent data available), 68 percent of sheltered domestic violence victims 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 is identified by shelter staff as having a substance abuse issue. Based on the January 2005 survey, 57 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 January 2005 point-in-time survey of emergency shelter and transitional housing, the DES Arizona Homeless Coordination Office identified approximately 340 individuals believed to be seriously mental ill (SMI). Another 645 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 HUD to provide housing and/or services for Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) persons.

Identification and documentation of those in emergency shelters in particular with substance use and serious mental illness is continually a difficult task. Several efforts have been made to increase the number of housing units available for persons suffering from mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders, although this is still believed to be a large area of need in communities around the state.

## **4.0 HOUSING AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS**

Integrated services in and across state agencies is resulting in increased access and improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. In order to end homelessness in Arizona, it is imperative that housing and supportive services be available to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families. There are many resources in the state to address homelessness; however, there still remains a gap in the number of housing units and services available to meet the needs of the various populations listed above.

The majority of resources and support services 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. By integrating services, access to services is seamless, which improves outcomes towards ending homelessness.

## **5.0 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 on Homelessness

In June 2004, Governor Janet Napolitano signed Executive Order 2004-13 establishing a State Interagency and Community Council on 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 → **Completed**
- ⇒ Phase II – Development of the State Plan for Housing for persons who are homeless → **Completed**
- ⇒ Phase III – Ongoing implementation and integration with other housing and services initiatives

The goals of the State Plan to End Homelessness are as follows:

- ⇒ Decrease the number of individuals living on the streets
- ⇒ Decrease the number of people who need shelter through prevention efforts
- ⇒ Decrease the time that individuals and families stay in shelter
- ⇒ Increase the number of people leaving shelter for permanent housing
- ⇒ Increase the supply of affordable, service-enriched housing
- ⇒ Decrease the number of public school students experiencing homelessness

Benchmarks are being tracked to ensure progress towards meeting these goals. Several programmatic and policy changes have been implemented in order to make these outcomes a reality.

### **State Agencies**

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

ADOH offers a combined application process for two sources of funding available 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 were available in SFY 2005 to assist local governments and other organizations in providing affordable housing.

⇒ **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 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.

A.R.S.§ 41-1512 and A.R.S.§ 44-323, the statutes that govern the HTF 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 was 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 \$8.7 million in SFY 2005 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.

In addition to the two funding sources described above, the Department of Housing also administers a variety of other federal fund programs.

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

ADOH administers the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

for non-metropolitan counties in Arizona. Approximately \$13.4 million was available in SFY 2005 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 Arizona 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 \$12 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. Since this program started in Arizona in 1987, more than \$145 million in tax credits have been allocated assisting in the creation of about 37,000 units of low-income housing. These projects have leveraged more than \$900 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 2006, SNH will administer twenty-four federal HUD grants totaling \$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 twenty-one 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 housing units funded during SFY 2006 includes:

| <b>Shelter Plus Care</b> |                         | <b>Supportive Housing Programs</b>                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>County</b>            | <b>Units of housing</b> | <u>Rural Arizona</u>                                                   |  |
| La Paz                   | 16                      | 82 units of permanent supportive housing                               |  |
| Maricopa                 | 633                     | 129 units of transitional housing                                      |  |
| Pima                     | 112                     | 60 persons provided supportive services <i>only</i><br>(point-in-time) |  |
| Yuma                     | 34                      |                                                                        |  |
| Graham & Greenlee        | 20                      |                                                                        |  |
| Santa Cruz               | 5                       |                                                                        |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>820</b>              | <b>Total 211 units of housing / 271 Households</b>                     |  |

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

- ⇒ **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 2005.

- ⇒ **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 2005.

- ⇒ **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 \$808,000 was available in SFY 2005.

- ⇒ **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 for homeless services. Services provided with these funds are based on the priorities set by the Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee. In SFY 2005, \$15,000 was available for commitment through this fund.

- ⇒ **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 \$660,000 was available for domestic violence services and homeless services received approximately \$647,000 in SFY 2005.

⇒ **Homeless Shelter Line Item**

The Arizona Legislature appropriates this line item from the state general fund to the DES budget for the purpose of funding homeless shelters. DES contracts 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 2005, \$1.15 million was appropriated and available for homeless shelters.

⇒ **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. 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. In SFY 2005, the legislature appropriated approximately \$5.1 million to the domestic violence shelter line item and \$1.65 million to the homeless shelter line item.

**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 (ADE)**

⇒ **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.

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 (ADHS)**

⇒ **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. Through a competitive bid process, ADHS contracts with three local mental health providers to carry out the day-to-day operations of the grant. ADHS/BHS is responsible for program oversight, grant administration, monitoring, annual progress reports submittal to SAMSHA and provides technical assistance to grantees. The three providers serving the areas of the State where the largest numbers of homeless individuals and families are concentrated receive the PATH funding. Organizations receiving PATH funds are Southwest Behavioral Health Services, Community Partnership for Southern Arizona and Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Agency.

In FY 2005, PATH funded programs contacted approximately 9,000 homeless persons. It is projected that over 1,000 of those contacted will be identified as having a serious mental illness. These individuals will be enrolled in a behavioral health authority to receive mental health and substance treatment.

⇒ **Shelter Plus Care**

The HUD Shelter Plus Care program is a federal program, accessed through the three Continua of Care, providing rental assistance that, when combined with locally funded supportive service agencies, provide supportive housing for homeless people with disabilities and their families. The Department of Health Service's Division of Behavioral Health Services has the responsibility to administer an array of behavioral health services for persons who are Seriously Mentally Ill. State appropriated funds are allocated to Regional Behavioral Health Authorities that subsequently provide dollar for dollar matching funding for services to over 2,000 seriously mentally ill persons who receive housing subsidies provided by the Shelter Plus Care program. This funding equals \$17,119,886 in supportive services to maintain formally homeless clients, living in independent housing, in the community. Shelter Plus Care housing programs funds are awarded to government agencies who serve as grantees, such as ADOH or cities and administered by local community non-profit providers.

⇒ **State General Funds**

State general funds are used to develop a number of "Community Housing" programs and level of care systems for persons with serious mental illnesses. These funds provide permanent housing for individuals: discharged from the Arizona State Hospital; Supervisory Care Homes/Board and Care Homes and/or residential treatment programs as described in the Arnold vs. Sarn lawsuit. This money is used to purchase, lease or rent properties in either the house model or small apartment complexes which offer client's safe, decent, stable housing with the availability of up to 24 hours a day support services. The ability to integrate and maintain clients in the community is a major goal and component of the mental health service delivery system. BHS provides these 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 released 15,730 inmates during FY 2005, and the average time served confined was 31 months. Of the 15,730 inmates released during FY 2005, 9,426 or 68 percent were released to ADC community supervision. Of those released to supervision, 1,898 offenders were homeless and an additional 1,878 offenders were housed at private sector halfway houses upon their release.

Under a collaborative contract with the Department of Health Services, four caseworkers known as Community Transition Specialists (CTS) worked with ADC special needs offenders who were homeless to assist them in securing permanent housing, obtaining food, obtaining medication, and receiving other supportive services as needed. Cases were screened and referred to the CTS through the ADC homeless coordinator and parole officers. In FY 2005, 56 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 was a pilot program and special funding was not received for these services.

- **Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)**

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) enhances public protection by changing delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department. ADJC place youth at home or may provide housing for youth until age eighteen in group homes or residential treatment centers. Once youth turn eighteen the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections has no statutory responsibility.

ADJC assists youth in accessing services through referral for treatment, education, job training, transportation, shelters and other transitional services. ADJC continues to collaborate with state and local agencies in providing transition plans and connecting youth before they turn eighteen for seamless services past their eighteenth birthday regardless of the funding source. The hope is that through collaboration no youth will leave the institution to become homeless.

- **Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services refers homeless clients to the Veterans' Affairs (Healthcare for Homeless Veterans), which is a federal agency, and U.S. Vets, which is a public-private partnership. These agencies utilize other non-veteran specific homeless organizations, if necessary. The Department of Veterans' Services assists veterans in accessing services through referral for treatment, transitional housing, case management, outreach, supportive services, legal assistance, employment and training services, transportation, etc.

- **Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)**

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), which serves as the State's Medicaid agency, is a health care program targeted at serving low-income Arizonans. The program consists of public-private partnerships that include the State and its counties, the Federal government, and health plans and providers from both the public and private sectors. As of June 1, 2004, AHCCCS was providing health care services to over 950,000 Arizona residents, which is approximately 17% of Arizona's total population. The Administration's main responsibilities include setting policy and controls for eligibility administration, member enrollment, quality assurance of medical care, provider and plan oversight, and procurement of contract providers. AHCCCS uses both a prepaid capitated and fee-for-service payment system. AHCCCS oversees three main programs: Acute care services including KidsCare, Long Term Care and other special populations such as Healthcare Group of Arizona.

- **Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF)**

The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families is responsible for policy planning / leadership on homeless and housing issues and on issues related to this topic. For example, general service reform, creation of a 211 system, domestic violence, youth

development, volunteerism, substance abuse policy, early childhood development, corrections re-entry, juvenile justice and Child Protective Services / foster care programming are all projects under this office. Through contracted providers, it provides a Positive Youth Development Grant which is part of the homeless/runaway youth program, AmeriCorps Grants that have some programs that work with homeless, Domestic Violence Grant funds where many domestic violence victims are homeless, and the Parents Commission grants which fund substance abuse prevention and treatment and corrections re-entry planning efforts.

## **New Initiatives**

- **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.

- **S.O.A.R.**

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/SAMHSA and Social Security Administration and Dept. 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. 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 SSA, Arizona Department of Corrections, Social Security Administration, Department of Health Services and DES Community Services Administration. 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.

- **Day Resource Center**

In July 2004, a Day Resource Center (DRC) for chronically homeless individuals opened in central Phoenix. The DRC is a one-stop hospitality center that is successfully integrating services of partnering agencies including the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Housing, Health Care for the Homeless, Community Bridges, Value Options and Southwest Behavioral Health Services PATH Outreach teams to assist homeless individuals in accessing the services necessary to achieve and maintain permanent housing.

The Department of Health Services has also committed an Assertive Community Treatment Team to the DRC, which will work in concert with the PATH team to engage homeless individuals with long-standing psychiatric illnesses, substance use disorders or dual diagnoses. ACT services are designed to be flexible in supporting individuals who have a demonstrated inability to independently access and sustain involvement with needed services due to history of treatment non-engagement and/or functional limitations. ACT services assist these individuals in developing the competencies needed to achieve

recovery, function as independently as possible and sustain a support network.

The DRC facilitates a seamless transition from homeless to permanent housing with wrap around services for the client. During the pilot phase, the DRC hosted approximately 100 persons daily. Sixty-four percent of individuals seen were seriously mentally ill, experiencing mental health or substance abuse disorders, or dually diagnosed. Another six percent exhibit chronic physical disorders.

On November 11, 2005 the DRC moved onto the Human Services Campus, which includes Central Arizona Shelter Services, Health Care for the Homeless, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph the Worker and Nova Safe Haven. Since moving to its permanent location, the DRC is welcoming 400 homeless individuals per day and recently added a Homeless Court to resolve outstanding misdemeanor offenses and warrants that often serve as barriers to ending homelessness. Since May 2005, the DRC had successfully housed 308 homeless persons, two-thirds of whom were chronically (long-term) homeless prior to securing a permanent home.

- **Homeless 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 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 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.

### **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 (AZCADV)**

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 AZCADV 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 Continuum 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.

- **Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO)**

The PAFCO Education Fund is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with the mission to educate citizens, public policymakers and organizations, and to promote increased health and human services funding created by fair and equitable tax reform. It is an alliance of social services, health, community service agencies, advocacy groups, citizen advocacy, and faith-based associations. Hundreds of social, health, and community services agencies, human services groups, citizen action and advocacy groups, and faith-based congregations are represented in the Coalition. Our agency and association members include an estimated 20,000 staff, board members and volunteers serving over 1.5 million people. The purpose of the PAFCO Education Fund is to promote health and human services funding through research, policy analysis, public information and education, citizen engagement and training publications, and education and advocacy with individual and organizations.

- **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-1030ASRLNA (12-05)