

**HOMELESSNESS IN ARIZONA
ANNUAL REPORT
2019**

**Arizona Department of Economic Security
Cara M. Christ, MD, Interim Director
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**Prepared by:
Homeless Coordination Office
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Division of Aging and Adult Services**

Executive Summary:

We are pleased to provide the Annual Report on Homelessness which presents an overview of information from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Homeless Coordination Office for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019.

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

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, the DES Homeless Coordination Office provided over 12,973 at-risk and homeless individuals with homeless services and/or interventions, through contracted vendors. DES has contracted homeless interventions in ten of the fifteen counties throughout Arizona and strives to provide homeless services to every area in need.

Sincerely,

Cara M. Christ, MD
Interim Director
Arizona Department of Economic Security

Arizona Department of Economic Security Homeless Coordination Office

The Annual Report on Homelessness in Arizona has been prepared pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1954 (A) (19) (g). This report provides information about homelessness in Arizona during SFY 2019. The report attempts to recognize the similarities and differences in demographic characteristics of subgroups that make up the homeless population, as well as the similarities and differences in the issues that impact homelessness in the three Continuums of Care (COC).

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

Information and data for this report are derived from the following sources:

- Annual Point-In-Time surveys, conducted January 22, 2019.
- The State's three COC aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).
- Contract reports submitted to the DES Homeless Coordination Office.

All references to SFY 2019 refer to the time frame of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Statewide Data

In Arizona, homeless service providers and funding agencies utilize the HMIS system to manage and store data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Homeless service providers upload homeless data into HMIS and the data is reviewed by planning committees, funding agencies and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Homeless service providers and funding agencies use the homeless data to adjust services to meet the needs of the homeless within each community.

HUD further analyzes HMIS information to adjust federal funding to fill service gaps in communities nationwide. HUD also compiles the data to provide nationwide reports and statistics on homelessness in the U.S.

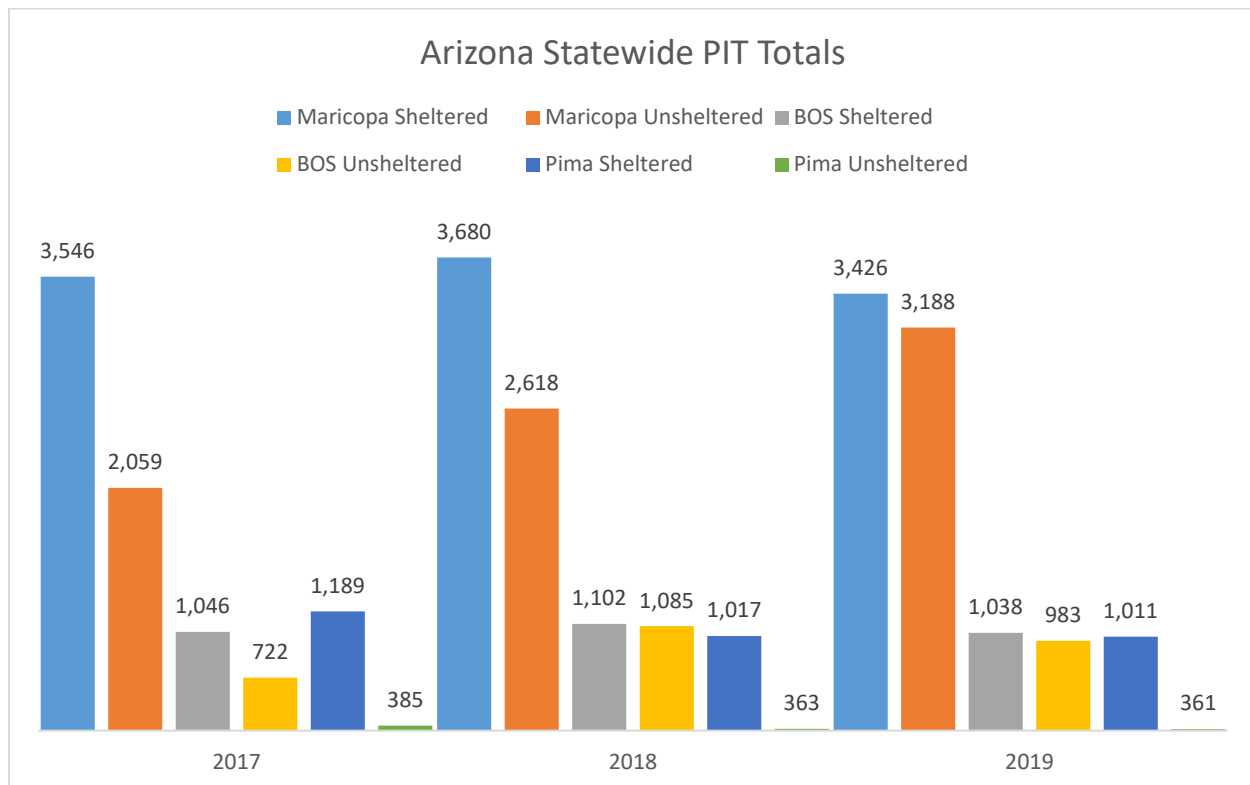
Table 1 illustrates the estimated AZ Census population in 2018 for each continua and the 2019 HMIS estimated total number of individuals that are homeless in each continua.

Continua	Census Population	HMIS # Homeless	% of Population
Maricopa County	4,410,824	42,999	1%
Balance of State	1,721,749	13,069	.75%
Pima County	1,039,073	6,497	.62%
Totals	7,171,646	62,565	.87%

Point-in-Time Count

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

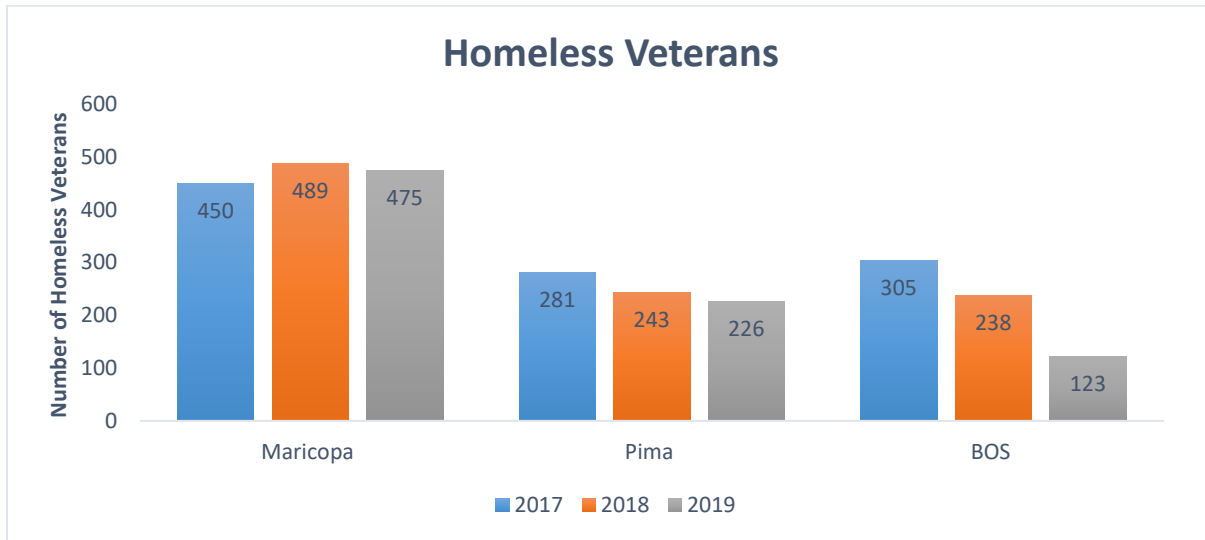
Figure 1 depicts Sheltered and Unsheltered PIT totals from the three continuums over a three-year period.



Veteran PIT Estimates

During the annual PIT count in 2019, there were 802 veterans identified as homeless statewide. Over the last three years, the number of veterans in Pima County and BOS has decreased. The number of veterans in Maricopa increased slightly over the three-year period. The decrease in homeless veterans may be a result of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) funding awarded to Arizona service providers. The SSVF funding allows agencies to assist veterans with housing placement and case management services. Arizona communities, through collaborative efforts, have demonstrated that ending veteran homelessness is possible. Ending veteran homelessness or reaching functional zero does not mean that veterans will no longer experience homelessness. Reaching functional zero for veterans means that when a veteran has a housing crisis, our communities have the systems and resources in place to immediately identify and support the veteran to end their homelessness.

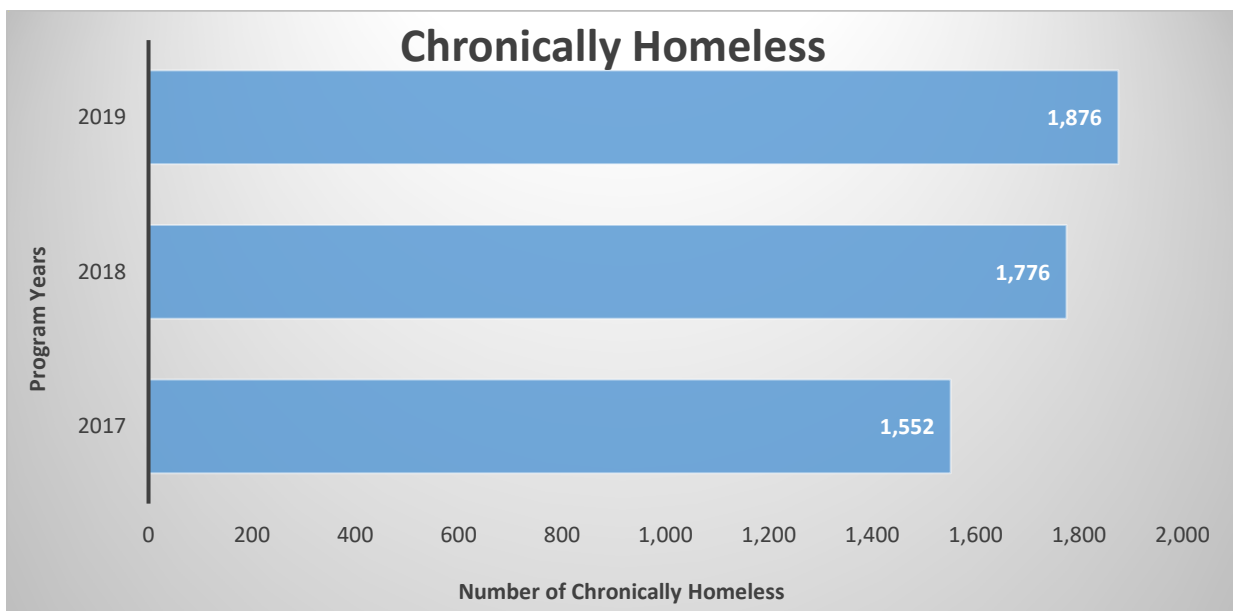
Figure 2 illustrates the number of homeless veterans in each continua over the course of three years.



Chronically Homeless PIT Estimates

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

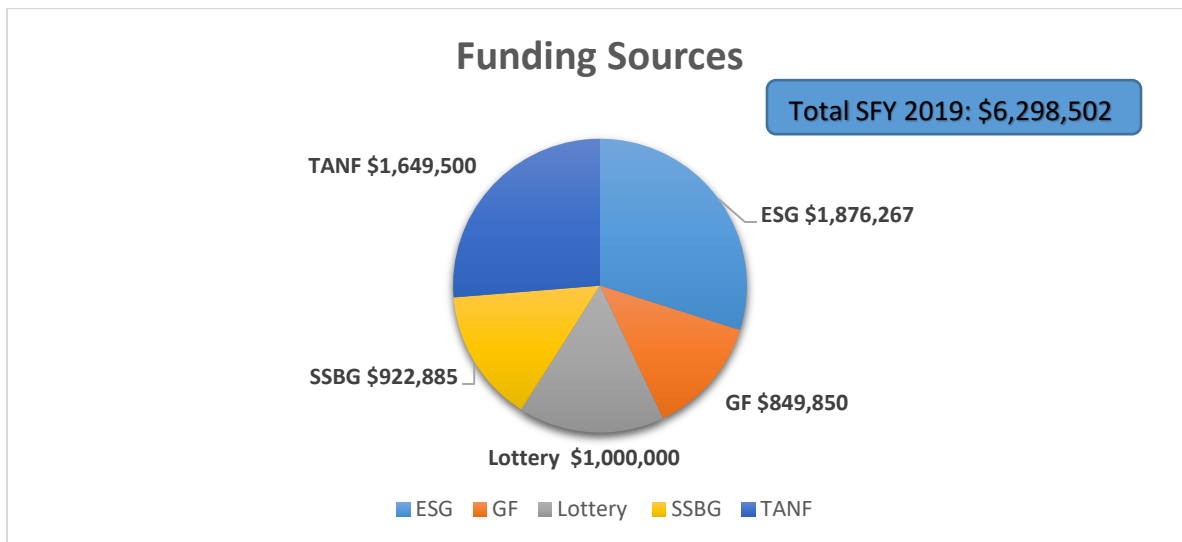
Figure 3 displays the increase in the number of chronically homeless individuals during the PIT count statewide over a three-year period.



Funding

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

Figure 4 shows the division of the DES statewide funding allocation



Coordinated Entry and Housing First

In 2019, HUD began requiring federally funded homeless programs to utilize a coordinated entry process. The coordinated entry process helps communities prioritize homeless assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most receive it in a timely manner.

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

Housing First is an evidence-based approach that prioritizes permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness before anything else. Permanent housing, a safe place to lay one's head each night is a basic, but essential need. This need must be met before a person can pursue and make lasting changes or reach any other goals.

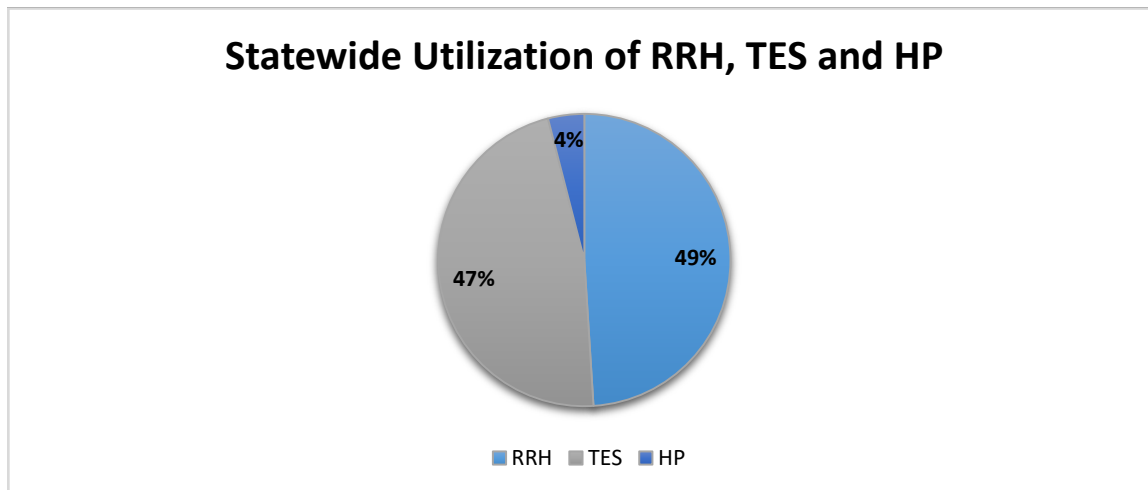
DES contracted homeless service providers operate under the Housing First philosophy. Once the individuals or families are safely housed, the provider will work with them and utilize community resources to provide wrap around services and support. It is at this point that both physical and emotional wellness will be fully pursued. The providers will work with these individuals and families to obtain stability, by addressing and attempting to remove any barriers they may face that have prevented them from living fruitful and fulfilling lives.

Interventions and Placements

The four homeless interventions available through DES contracts to assist individuals are:

- (RRH): RRH programs provide case management and financial assistance to participants to cover deposits, utilities, and rent to stabilize participants into permanent housing.
- (TES): TES programs provide sleeping accommodations, case management, meals and supportive wrap around services designed to assist individuals and families.
- (HP): HP is an intervention that provides rental assistance and case management to prevent individuals from becoming homeless.
- (SO): SO is an intervention that involves homeless service providers going out into the community to meet with homeless individuals where they reside to provide resources.

Figure 5 depicts the percentage of utilization for RRH, TES and HP contracted interventions during SFY 2019. Street Outreach is not included in this chart because the funding is less than one percent of the overall funding.



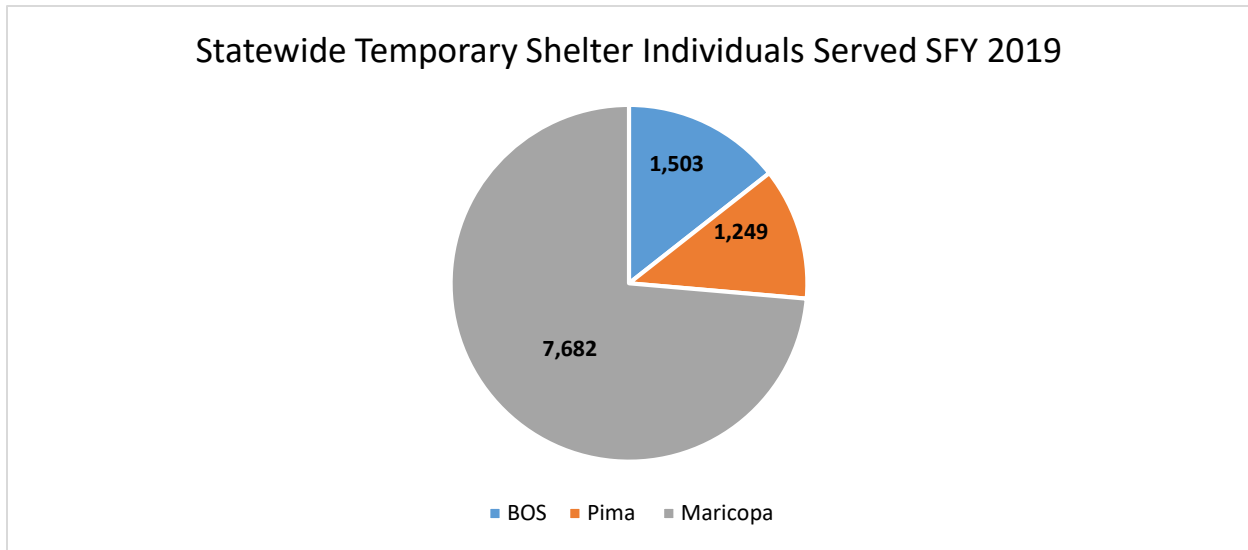
Street Outreach (SO)

Street Outreach is an important intervention that pursues and attempts to engage individuals who may be disconnected or alienated from mainstream services and are living on the streets or in encampments. Some individuals who live on the street, rather than shelter, do so by choice, and others lack the knowledge or awareness of the services available to them.

Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES)

TES is a temporary intervention to provide a safe place for an individual or family to lay their head each night while permanent housing is secured. Temporary shelter may include emergency shelter, transitional housing, or hotel or motel vouchers when an emergency shelter is unavailable. During SFY 2019, DES contracted TES providers served 10,434 individuals.

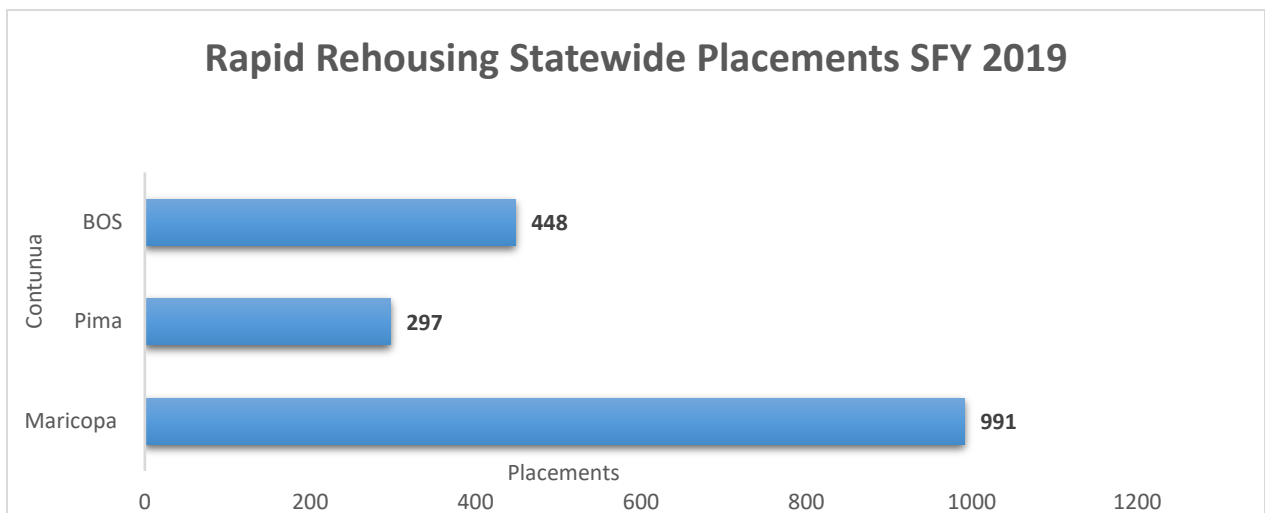
Figure 6 depicts the total number served in temporary shelter for each continuum during SFY 2019.



Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

RRH places a priority on moving families and individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Typically, this is within 30 days of entering the program. RRH is a hand up for individuals and families that need assistance to regain their footing. This is a temporary intervention that lasts from three to 24 months, based on that individual's need and situation. The rent is paid up to 100 percent but then gradually decreases as they can pay the rent in its entirety.

Figure 7 illustrates the number of DES contracted RRH placements statewide for SFY 2019.

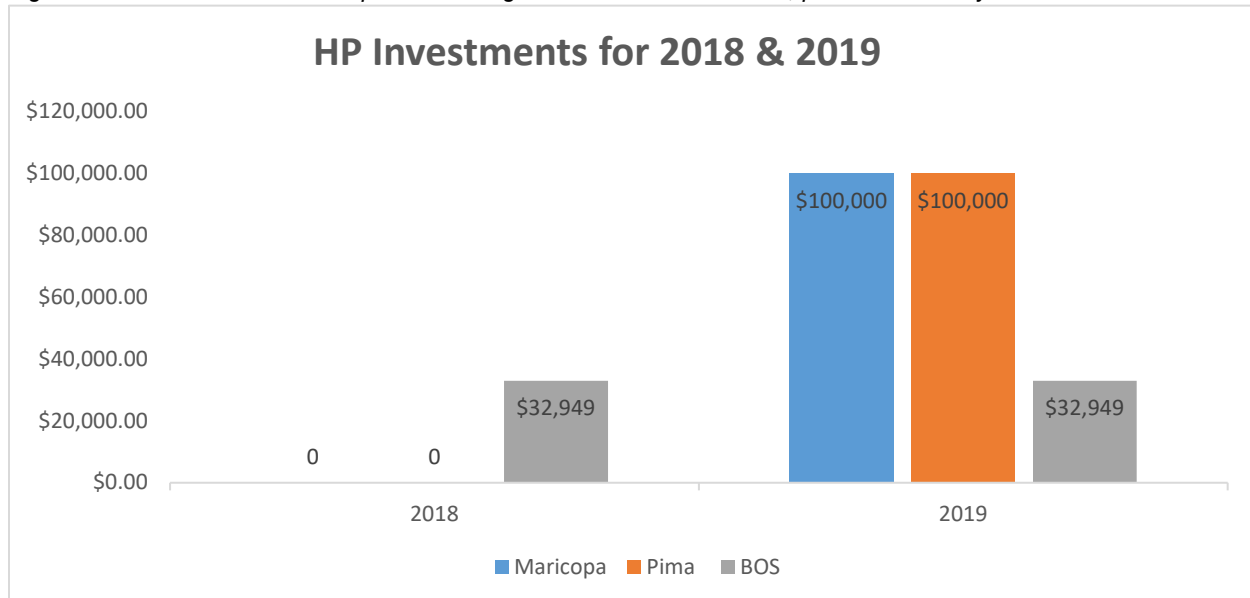


Special Initiatives

Homeless Prevention (HP) is an expedited intervention that assists individuals and families that are in imminent risk of becoming homeless from losing their current housing. Once an individual or family becomes homeless, the challenges and barriers they face to becoming stably housed again increases exponentially. HP funding can alleviate those burdens by keeping them in their current home. The program provides a variety of assistance options that include short term rental assistance, rental or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and crisis case management.

Prior to 2019, HP assistance was not available to the Maricopa or Pima COCs, funding was only available to the BOS COC, as depicted in *Figure 8* below. However, beginning in SFY 2019, the DES Homeless Coordination Office began allocating HP funding to all three COCs. This additional funding of \$200,000 is due to the acquisition of the Attorney General's Standard & Poor's homeless funding award.

Figure 8 shows the HP dollars expended through each of the three COCs, prior to 2019 only BOS received HP funds.



Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined by HUD as a permanent dwelling that a household can obtain for 30 percent or less of its income (that percentage varies slightly by city). Expending anything over the 30 percent standard creates instability as they are unable to afford other necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. In Arizona and across the nation, there is an affordable housing crisis. An estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households spend more than 50 percent of their annual incomes on housing. The chasm this creates plays a significant role in the ever-increasing evictions and foreclosures throughout the state of Arizona and nationwide. An affordable housing GAP analysis completed by the National Low- Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) in 2019, illustrated that Arizona has 25 affordable housing units for every 100 low income individuals and families. According to the NLIHC report, renters in Arizona need to earn an hourly wage of \$15.56 to afford a modest one-bedroom housing unit. Renters earning minimum wage in Arizona need to work 57 hours a week just to afford a one-bedroom unit NLIHC.

Vulnerable and At-Risk Seniors in Arizona

In Arizona, homeless data illustrates an increase in the number of seniors among the homeless population. In the early 1990s, only 11 percent of the adult homeless population was aged 50 and over. That percentage was up to 37 by 2003. Today half of the homeless are over age 50. While this population has safety-net programs available to them, i.e., subsidized housing, Medicare and Social Security benefits, they often become vulnerable to losing their home due to financial setbacks such as rent increases and unexpected medical bills. With rising housing costs, elderly households often must choose between housing and other basic needs such as food and medical care.

In SFY 2020, the AZ Attorney General's (AG) Office earmarked \$192,481 to fund community-based solutions that assist people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. DES, with the collaborative efforts of organizations such as Cornerstone, Old Concho, and CAHRA received funding from the AG's Office to provide Senior Homeless Prevention services. The program provides a variety of assistance that includes: short-term rental assistance, rental or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and crisis case management.

Through this grant opportunity, DES will provide additional Homeless Prevention services to seniors living in rural Arizona, allowing these residents to remain safely in their homes. The DES Homeless Coordination Office looks forward to continue working with our valued agency partners to serve seniors in Apache, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo and Pinal Counties.

Arizona StandDown Alliance

The StandDown is an annual, one to three-day event that provides resources for homeless or veterans at-risk of becoming homeless. The Maricopa County StandDown, which is the largest StandDown in AZ, served 1,858 veterans in 2019. StandDown events are held annually in the following counties:

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

Resources:

Arizona Housing Coalition- Maricopa Veterans StandDown

<https://www.azhousingcoalition.org>

Balance of State PIT results:

<https://housing.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/2019-AZBOSCOG-Combined-PIT-Data.pdf>

Dennis P. Cullhane, Stephan Metraux, and Jay Bainbridge. "The Age Structure of Contemporary Homelessness: Risk Period or Cohort Effect?" Penn School of Social Policy and Practice Working Paper (2010): 1-28.

HUD, Affordable Housing:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/

Maricopa 2019 PIT results:

<https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>

National Low Income Housing Coalition, The Gap a shortage to Affordable Homes:

<https://reports.nlihc.org/gap>

National Low income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2019: Arizona

<https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/arizona>

Pima 2019 PIT results:

<https://tpch.net/data/hic-pit/>

United States Census Bureau, Maricopa County population estimate:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/arizonacitycdparizona,pimacountyarizona,maricopacountyarizona/PST045218>

United States Census Bureau, Pima County population estimate:

https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?q=Pima+County+2018+population+estimate+&page=1&stateGeo=none&searchtype=web&cssp=SERP&_charset=utf-8

United States Census Bureau, Arizona population estimate:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk