



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND POVERTY

Arizona had an estimated 1,277 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in June 2004) seeks both to prevent and end homelessness in Arizona.

Governor's Appointee: The Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness has not met to reorganize since Governor Jan Brewer assumed office in January 2009.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Arizona	Maricopa County	Pima County
Persons in homeless families ²	4,060	2,503	779
Number of family shelter beds ³	5,269	3,229	1,067
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	18	17	24
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	15.91%	13.74%	17.02%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2004	2003	2006
10-Year plan target population	All	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Arizona Department of Economic Security	Maricopa Association of Governments	Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Arizona Department of Housing	Community Information and Referral	Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Arizona Department of Housing	Maricopa Association of Governments	Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless

Housing Initiatives in Arizona

The Arizona State Plan to End Homelessness, created by the Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness, outlines the state's strategies to reduce homelessness in two phases. Phase I, created in 2004, strives to implement homeless prevention services, improve service delivery through inter-agency collaboration, and increase employment and education opportunities.⁶

Prior to the development of Phase II in 2005, over 10 percent of all Arizona households did not have housing or were contributing more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs.⁷ Recognizing the affordability gap between Fair Market Rent and household income as a cause of homelessness, Phase II focuses exclusively on rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing development. For example, the plan recommends the construction of 343 units of supportive housing for homeless families and 1,348 units for homeless individuals,

The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Arizona and other states, visit www.icprwb.org



the creation of a private pool of low-interest loan or grant funds to cover costs, and the creation of the Interagency Planning Group on Supportive Housing.⁸

Before the completion of both phases, the economic crisis shifted the state's focus from supportive housing development to foreclosure mitigation. As of November 2009, the state maintained the sixth highest foreclosure rate in the nation, affecting 1 in every 199 Arizona housing units.⁹

To address the new economic landscape, the statewide council recommended the expansion of the state Housing Trust Fund (HTF), culminating in the \$13.6 million *Housing Arizona Initiative* in 2008. Although the HTF was created two decades ago, the initiative increases funds to provide services to homeowners affected by foreclosures, stabilize neighborhoods, and address the critical needs of homeless families and individuals.¹⁰ In 2008, programs funded through the initiative assisted 14,256 households, with 87 percent of participants utilizing eviction and foreclosure assistance.¹¹

Homeless Prevention in Pima County

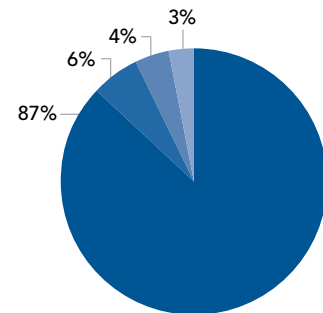
The City of Tucson and greater Pima County have traditionally collaborated on the homeless planning and funding distribution process, including developing homeless prevention initiatives. The region's joint ten-year plan, created in 2006, focuses on increasing funds for emergency financial assistance and strengthening existing services for at-risk families.¹² Since the creation of the plan, the federal government has intensified its commitment to homeless prevention through the creation of the 2009 Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Tucson and Pima County received \$3.6 million in HPRP funding, two-thirds of which provides support to local agencies for short-term rental assistance, utility payments, and case management programs to prevent homelessness. The remaining third of the allocation supports an array of rapid re-housing strategies, including medium-term rental assistance, employment training, and housing search services, to divert first-time homeless households who would otherwise enter the costly service system.¹³ Localities did not provide information on how this funding will specifically be used to help homeless families.

Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (AZCEH)

The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (AZCEH) was established in the early 1990s to coordinate homeless efforts throughout the state. AZCEH is a membership-based group consisting of over 50 organizations that provide shelter and housing assistance, food, substance abuse counseling, and other supportive services to homeless families and individuals.¹⁴ The coalition fosters interagency cooperation among various providers, promotes community awareness, and advocates for public policy changes on behalf of at-risk and homeless families and individuals. Additionally, the coalition participates in the Rural Arizona Continuum of Care planning process in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Housing and local continuum members.¹⁵ The coalition's current legislative initiatives include opposition to further budget cuts in the Departments of Education and Economic Security that would affect programs targeted towards at-risk and homeless families. These cuts, which have already resulted in the elimination of shelter beds for over 1,000 families, would reduce TANF and other emergency services throughout Arizona.¹⁶

Percent of Households Assisted by Housing Arizona Initiative Programs

- Eviction/foreclosure assistance
- Homeless shelter development and assistance
- Homeownership assistance
- Rental housing development and assistance



Source: Arizona Department of Housing, *Housing Trust Fund Fact Sheet*, 2009.

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- ² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- ³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- ⁶ Arizona Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness, *Two Months—Two Days—Too Long: Ending Homelessness in Arizona, Phase I—Improving Services*, June 2004.
- ⁷ Arizona Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness, *Plan to End Homelessness: Plan for Housing*, December 2005.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ RealtyTrac, *National Real Estate Trends*, <http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter>
- ¹⁰ State of Arizona Executive Office, "Governor Announces Housing Arizona: Housing Arizona to Reach out to Struggling Families," September 10, 2008.
- ¹¹ Arizona Department of Housing, *Housing Trust Fund Fact Sheet*, 2009.
- ¹² Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless, *Plan to End Homelessness, Pima County, Arizona*, Spring 2006.
- ¹³ Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department, *Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan, 2008 Action Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)*, Submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009; City of Tucson Community Services Department, *Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan, 2008 Action Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)*, Submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, May 13, 2009.
- ¹⁴ Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (AZCEH), <http://www.azceh.org/Mission.html>
- ¹⁵ Arizona Department of Housing, *HUD's 2008 Arizona Balance of State CoC Application—AZ-500*. Submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, November 12, 2008.
- ¹⁶ Wendy Koch, "Cutbacks pinch homeless programs." *USAToday*, August 24, 2009; Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Information*, December 14, 2009; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *An Update on State Budget Cuts*, November 19, 2009.