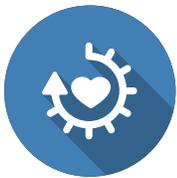


# Regional Homelessness Strategies Portfolio



## Executive Summary



May 2021



# Regional Homelessness Strategies Portfolio

Regional partners, including the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care (MRCoC), and the Regional Collaborative on Homelessness, have engaged in an extensive process to identify a set of shared strategies to meaningfully address the growing crisis of homelessness across Maricopa County and the portions of Pinal County within MAG's service area.

The region is well-positioned to undertake a collaborative effort to implement the identified strategies aligned with prevention and diversion, housing, services, coordination, and temporary housing solutions. This effort will require significant investment to increase the availability of permanent housing and supportive services, provide financial assistance and resources for prevention and diversion, and develop housing-focused temporary solutions that enable individuals to transition to permanent and stable housing.

The community has already done a great deal to address homelessness at a local level. Each of the many jurisdictions, including the County, the Continuum of Care, and the cities within, have proactively pursued new resources and opportunities to collaborate. Yet, homelessness continues to increase across the region. The need is urgent for a collaborative approach to enhance what is working well within the jurisdictions, and to leverage the strength of local partners to coordinate key resources available across all sectors of the region.

The ***Regional Homelessness Strategies Portfolio*** provides a set of strategies that reflect our community's shared goals to maximize the resources at hand to address homelessness and to address the system inequities inherent in the current system.

# Categories and Strategies

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## Homelessness Diversion and Prevention

- Coordinate and expand regional homelessness prevention efforts.
- Coordinate and expand regional homelessness diversion efforts.



## Housing Options

- Increase affordable housing, particularly for extremely low income (ELI) households.
- Coordinate COVID-19 relief funds to support implementation of the Regional Homelessness Strategies.
- Create a regional system for landlord engagement.
- Expand and coordinate housing flexible funding pool initiatives to support providers in meeting the unique needs of their clients.



## Coordination

- Include people with lived experience of homelessness, especially people of color, in decision-making roles throughout the homeless system of care.
- Continue to examine data from homelessness and other systems to understand and address racial disparities.
- Develop and sustain a diverse and inclusive workforce and organizations that are committed to antiracism.
- Build and coordinate cross-sector relationships with other systems.



## Services

- Evaluate and enhance the Coordinated Entry System.
- Expand and coordinate employment assistance and services available to people experiencing homelessness.



## Temporary Housing Solutions

- Strengthen the regional response to unsheltered homelessness and the system of local shelters.
- Increase bridge housing.



Eliminating homelessness is a community priority. Homelessness impacts everyone, from our neighbors who are in unstable housing situations to those who have already fallen into homelessness, to our faith-based and business community, to all who will benefit from communitywide strategies that can systemically and effectively resolve homelessness.

The community has identified 14 urgent priority strategies that are ripe for implementation – regional implementation – to achieve sustainable and lasting impact in addressing homelessness. The implementation process will further refine the action items and next steps that will enhance the work done thus far.

This report will be used as the basis for developing a truly regional implementation strategy. It summarizes stakeholder feedback from across the region and highlights local community examples that can be built on in the coming months. The Capstone event kicking off the implementation process will be on June 10, 2021.



Provided with the assistance of the

## Regional Collaborative on Homelessness

