MEMORANDUM

Date: April 30, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
    Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
      County Administrator

Re: Annual Homeless Survey and Housing for Homeless Individuals Including Veterans

Supervisor Matt Heinz inquired with regard to the number of homeless counted in the latest Homeless Survey and if there was enough capacity for housing related to homeless individuals either due to eviction or for other reasons. The attached April 28, 2021 memorandum from Community and Workforce Development Director Dan Sullivan discusses this subject in more detail.

In addition to the 28-bed facility recently purchased by the City of Tucson, they are in the process of acquiring another 90-bed facility.

In a separate communication, we also know there is sufficient housing vouchers for homeless veterans and not enough eligible individuals to fill the vouchers.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
   Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
   Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
   Dan Sullivan, Director, Community & Workforce Development
Date: April 28, 2021

To: C.H. Huckleberry, County Administrator

Via: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer

From: Dan Sullivan, Community & Workforce Development Director

RE: Annual Homeless Survey

Each year during the last 10 days of January, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuum of Care (CoC) across the nation to take a one-night snapshot of all housing dedicated for people experiencing homelessness ("Housing Inventory Count" or HIC) and of the number of persons experiencing street/unsheltered homelessness ("Point In Time" or PIT). Pima County's count is conducted by community volunteers organized by the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH).

This year, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, HUD waived the requirement to conduct a street count, which is done via in-person surveys with people experiencing homelessness and counts people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Still, the community will conduct data analysis of people experiencing homelessness residing in shelter and all the housing dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness.

The most recent data available is from the January 2020 PIT. The 2020 Sheltered and Unsheltered (PIT) found a total of 1,140 households (1,324 people) were reported experiencing homeless in Pima County, a slight increase from the 2019 PIT, where 1,122 households and 1,372 individuals were reported as experiencing homelessness.

Locally, increases in both unsheltered and chronic homelessness can be tied to the lack of low-barrier shelter options, meaning those where persons experiencing homelessness are not turned away from shelter because of intoxication, pets, or other factors that may exclude entrance into traditional shelters. Another complication is ineffective resource coordination for those with high service needs. Both have been significantly exacerbated by the pandemic, with shelters employing mitigation measures, reducing the number of individuals they take in so as to reduce the risk of viral spread.

What we know annually is changes in funding, rental rates, household income will have an impact on housing inventory. The pandemic, the eviction moratoria, and the escalating rate of rents also have had a significant impact on providing housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Nationally, 2020 PIT data suggests an increased number of people experiencing chronic street homelessness. Veteran homelessness has stabilized, and family homelessness did not see an increase in 2020 count, which would be the first time in over a decade.
Shelter Acquisition

Pima County and the City of Tucson are partners in a local Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME Program) Consortium and per an Inter-Governmental Agreement, the Consortium funds are split according to the annual HOME Consortia Participating Members Percentages Report. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), signed by the President in March, includes a special $5 billion allocation in HOME funds to help acquire non-congregate shelter to be converted into permanent affordable housing or used as emergency shelter. The City of Tucson is the fiscal agent for the Consortium. It is important to note that while the ARP Act HOME allocation allows funding support for homeless shelters, the regular HOME funds appropriated annually by Congress do not allow funding for homeless shelters. The next fiscal year’s (FY 2021) HOME appropriation amount is also listed below for reference and represents level funding at the current FY 2020 appropriation amount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2021 National HOME Appropriation = $1.35B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2021 Consortium HOME $'s</td>
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<td>Pima County</td>
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<tr>
<th>ARP Act HOME $'s for Homeless Assistance = $4.75B Nationally</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARP Act - Tucson-Pima County Consortium Allocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pima County’s Estimated split</td>
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<td>City of Tucson</td>
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<td>$3,785,184</td>
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The City of Tucson recently acquired a 28-bed facility, located at 1833 West Anklam Rd, to be used as low-barrier shelter. City staff have made offers on numerous properties, including a midtown high-rise apartment complex, but these offers have been rejected due to the competitiveness of the housing market.

These funds will help to significantly address unsheltered homelessness in Pima County by providing additional low-barrier shelter options, which, as noted above, are currently limited.

I continue to meet with Liz Morales on a weekly basis to coordinate our joint efforts, including eviction prevention, HOME funds, and Section 8 Housing. CWD and the City of Tucson Housing Department are currently working on an IGA to solidify coordination of efforts to ensure efforts are not duplicated or in conflict.

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator