



Ron Friesen, Chaplain
Ecumenical Chaplaincy for the Homeless
Prepared for Arizona Faith Council
8-27-2020

Homeless | nom

someone with no

without homes

no housing. who

for what is thou

"Homelessness may not be only a housing problem,
but it is always a housing problem; housing is necessary, although sometimes not sufficient, to solve the problem of homelessness" ([Dolbeare, 1996](#)).



To be considered
~~chronically~~ chronically homeless,
a person must have a
disability and have
been living in a place
not meant for human
habitation, in an
emergency shelter, or
a safe haven for the
last 12 months
continuously or on at
least four occasions in
the last three
years **where those
occasions
cumulatively total at
least 12 months**



The Facts of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- **42,999 homeless in Maricopa County 2019 (State = 62,565)**
- **9,646 Homeless in PIT count in 2019; Vets = 832**
- **4x increase in chronically homeless in last 3 years (Per PIT)**
- **The fastest growing group of homeless are persons over 55**

Homelessness
is more than
not having
secure place to
sleep

Poor nutrition

Inadequate solid support system

Insecurity about the future

Use of substances to cope

Frequent harassment by
authorities

Trauma

Medical issues

Spiritual Issues

Stereotypes of the Homeless

- Homeless people are all elderly men
- Homeless people are lazy/ bums/drunks/sick/mentally ill
- People choose to be homeless
- Homeless people don't want housing/jobs/education
- Homeless youth just don't like the rules at home



Causes of Homelessness

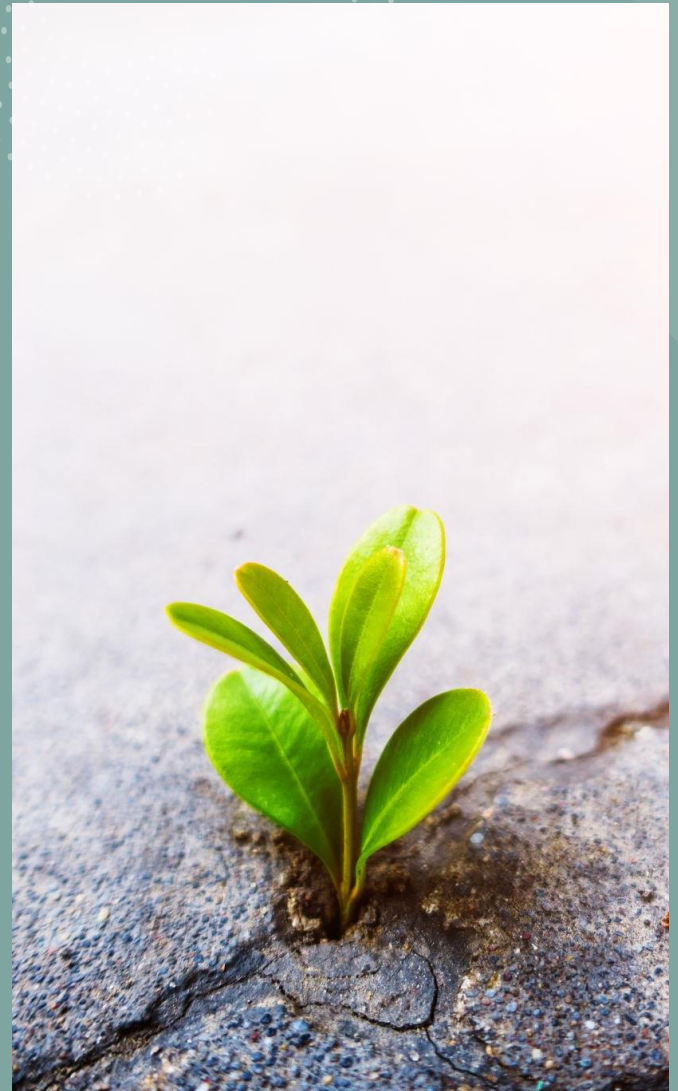
- **Failed systems**
- **Family conflicts**
- **Unaccepted behavior**
- **Abuse/trauma**
- **Death of family member**
- **Divorce or incarceration**
- **Foster care exit or runaway**
- **Chemical dependency/
Mental health**
- **Physical Health**
- **Family poverty**
- **Identifying LGBTQ**
- Criminalization
- Institutional oppression
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Lack of support network
- Lack of funding available in system
- Unavailable housing and services
- Self Esteem and loss of value
- Survival Crimes (trafficking/drugs)

The Costs of Homelessness

- “It costs about **\$40,000 a year** for a homeless person to be on the streets.” Housing, food assistance and health services as well as wrap around case management services costs in the range of \$14,000 - \$16,000 per year, or roughly \$25,000 per homeless person to house them and provide services to help them become healthy and self-sufficient!
- Homelessness, like most social issues, are much more than an economic issue

Much more than \$

- Environmental costs
 - Quality of life threatened
 - Health concerns
- Educational costs
 - For every homeless child we read about entering Harvard, there are thousands who drop out of schools
- Spiritual costs
 - What does it do to the soul of a community when it ignores the person sleeping on the bus bench?





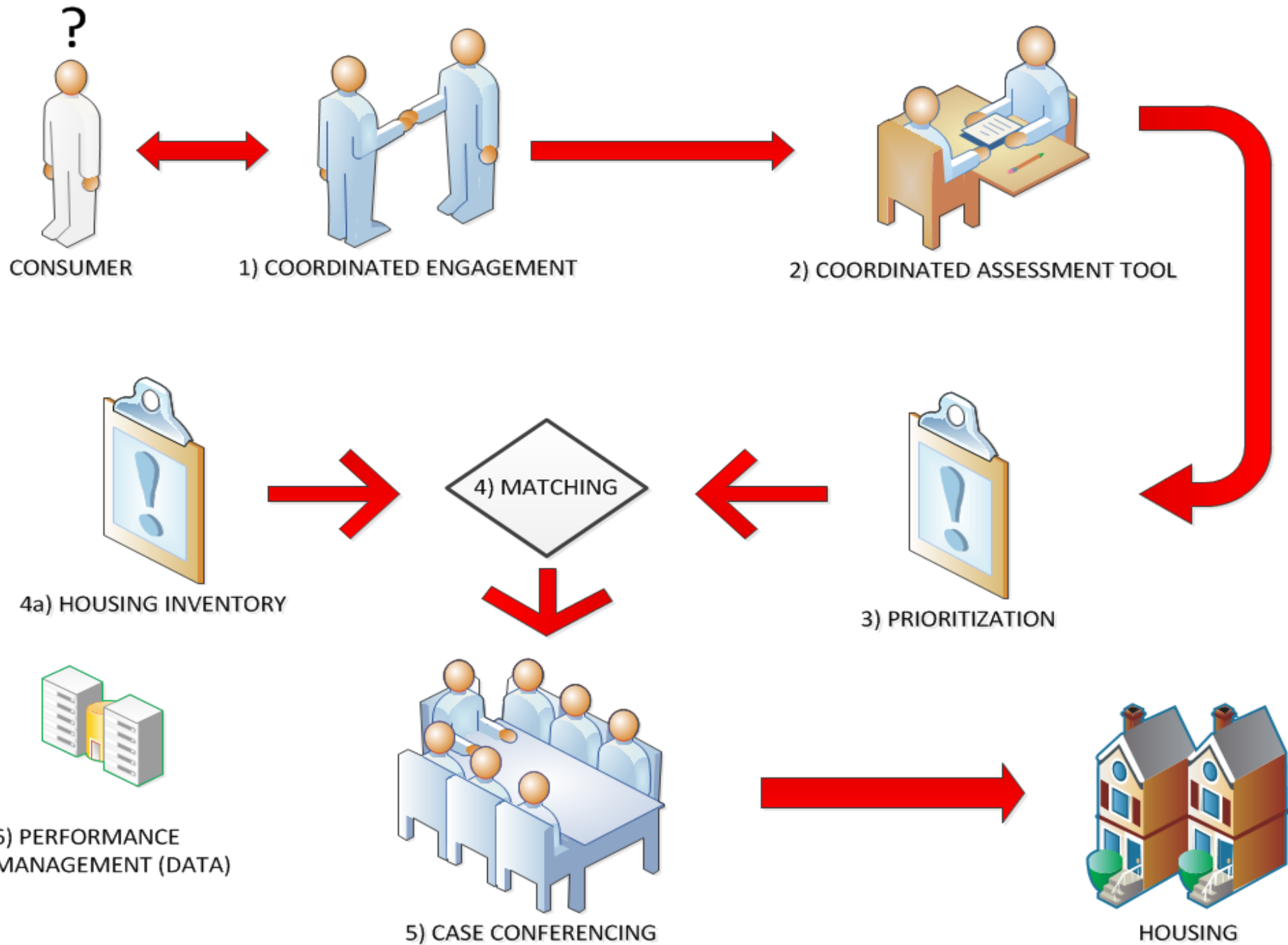
Why don't we see LA here?



Human Service Campus

- 30 Acres
- 21 agencies
- About 1,000 daily visitors
- 60% leave in 45 days or less
- Full range of services: IDs, meals, shelter, DES, counseling, dental, employment, Veterans, spiritual ministry





COORDINATED ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Welcome Center – This is where persons check in and are assessed for VI-SPDAT
- Crisis Triage/Assessment
 - Document Collection and Upload into system or secure documents if needed
- VI – SPDAT-Vulnerability score is indicated to determine where one goes in the system with highest acuity at top of list
- Release of Information-ROI
- Enter into Homeless Management Information System - HMIS)
- Shelter Referrals
- Campus ID/Orientation
- Welcome Center – This is where persons check in and are assessed for VI-SPDAT
- Direct supportive service referrals are given
- Coordinated Shelter placement
- Special Population Support
- Adding additional screening for special populations (FUSE, Elderly, Youth)
- Regional Behavioral Health Agency (RHBA which is Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care – Mental Health Status Determination
- Referrals to Other Entry Systems (Family, Youth, Vet)
- Weekly Provider Case Conferencing to staff and refer/transfer cases.

HOUSING PRIORITY/MATCHING

HOW IT WORKS

- ▣ NAVIGATOR (Housing-based case management)
 - SPDAT – full assessment
 - Completes Housing Match Initiation Form
 - Documentation (HMIS)
- ▣ Housing Match Coordinator
 - Manages Lists by VI-SPDAT
 - Initiates Match with providers
 - Assists with documentation/applications
 - Updates projects and units
 - Match can be made by individual or by unit
- ▣ Housing Provider
 - Housing Initiation Form for vacancies
 - Accept/Deny referrals
 - Recognize agency eligibility requirements

NEXT STEPS

- ▣ Onboarding Housing
 - ABC Units (SMI Identification)
 - Balance of CoC housing units
 - Other Homeless/Chronic units
- ▣ Onboarding Special Initiatives
 - Onboarding all CoC and Special Initiative Units
 - Coordinated special initiative lists from system
- ▣ Implement prioritization by SPDAT
- ▣ Match-Staffing w/appropriate providers that serve client needs
- ▣ Housing Search Function

Service coordination

HOW IT WORKS

- ▣ Assignment to Navigators with appropriate agencies that provide services for housing for eligible clients that qualify for their programs.
- ▣ Case Conferencing
 - Special Initiatives developed
 - All agency provider navigators staff and refer/transfer clients and discuss service plans.

NEXT STEPS

- Other Outreach/Case Managers/Volunteer-Mentors bring clients to Welcome Center
- Referred to Shelters
- ▣ Live assignment of Navigators from Entry/Access – As soon as possible – most vulnerable first.
- ▣ Data is entered and reported

A photograph showing a homeless encampment behind a chain-link fence. Several tents, including a prominent blue and white one in the foreground, are set up on a dirt lot. In the background, a multi-story orange building is visible under a clear sky. A red rectangular overlay with the white number '110' is positioned in the upper right. A white bar at the bottom of the red overlay contains the text 'shutterstock.com • 1683596260'.

110

shutterstock.com • 1683596260



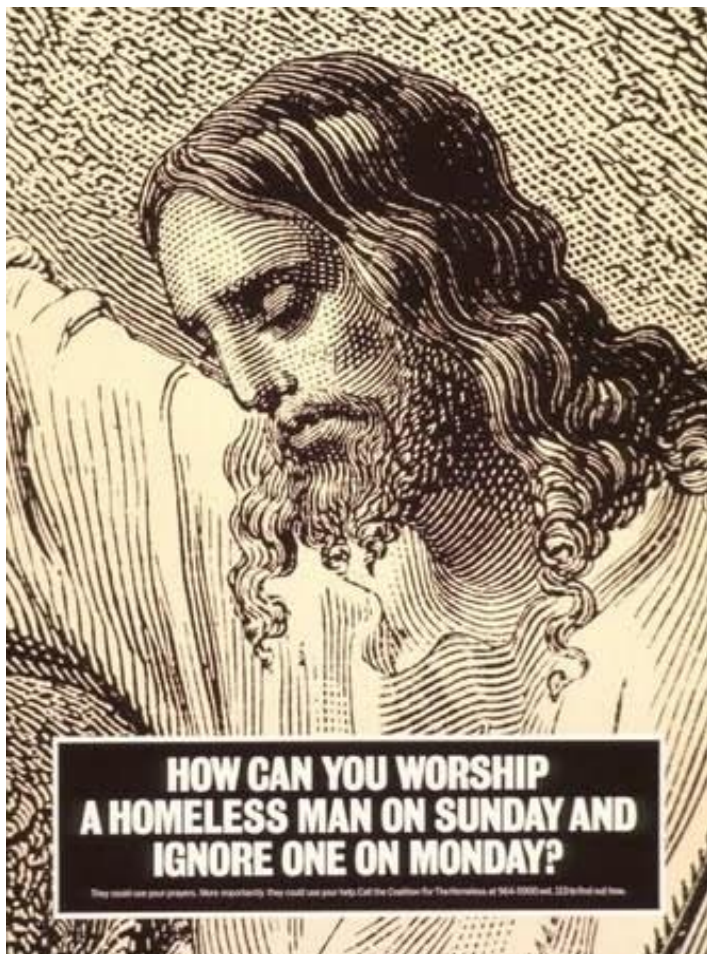
What
works?

- Housing First – but not the current policy.
 - Give a person a bed and intensive case management



Long Term Issues

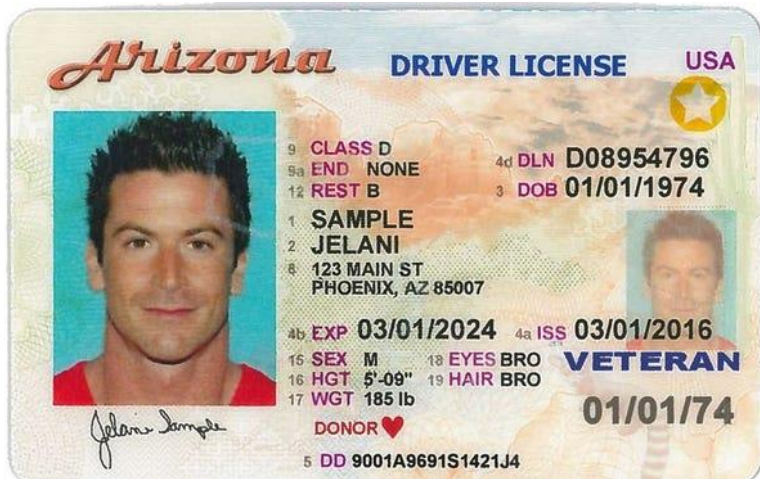
- Triage
 - The 40%
 - Malcom Gladwell, Million Dollar Murray
 - Pareto Principle – 80/20
- Affordable housing
 - Phoenix short 160,000 affordable housing units
 - Current plan will take a long time to accomplish
 - Faith-based response?????



How to help?

HOMELESS ID PROJECT
(602) 223-3427

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER
(602) 417-9854





Ecumenical Chaplaincy

Services

- Ministry of Presence
- Worship Services
- Bible Studies
- Prayer
- Pastoral Counseling
- Referrals

Needs

- Volunteers
 - Chaplains
 - Worship Leaders
 - Discipleship Opportunities
 - Board Members
- Hygiene Kits

Contact Information



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