

April 1, 2021

Alan Stephenson
Planning and Development Director
City of Phoenix
200 W Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

Per Stipulation No. 29 on Z-SP-2-19-7, the below is submitted to identify how the Human Services Campus, Inc. (HSC) will support efforts of the city's adopted strategies to address homeless plan to regionalize efforts to combat homelessness. HSC 's primary goal has always been to provide services and create solutions to end homelessness, and HSC will continue to be supportive of a regional effort to combat homelessness. HSC is supportive of the City of Phoenix's **Strategies to address homelessness**, as unanimously adopted by the Phoenix City Council in 2020. Consistent with the City's plan, HSC shares below its strategies to work congruently with the City of Phoenix to address homelessness on a regional basis.

Strategy 1: Outreach and Resources

HSC Response: In the Short Term for Singles, HSC is the partner to Maricopa County in the "COVID-19 safe lots." We are in the midst of a phase down plan to move all of the individuals in that Safe Outdoor Space to indoor spaces by July 1, 2021. In the Short Term for Youth, it is listed that there will be increased funding for a specialist at Native American Connections (NAC) to work with Human Services Campus, and we look forward to this opportunity. For short term LGBTQ+, HSC will participate in the workgroup, as appropriate. In the Medium Term for Singles, HSC is building a multi-disciplinary street outreach team to serve all unsheltered people, starting in the immediate Downtown area; grant funding was recently received from Blue Cross Blue Shield to hire two individuals to begin this team's outreach. In the Medium Term for Youth, HSC is relaunching Project Connect in partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way and the ASU Action Nexus and would be glad to partner with the City on a bi-annual resource day for homeless youth.

Strategy 2: Mental Health

HSC Response: HSC will support the Medium Term and Long Term strategies to advocate for addiction treatment and other mental health disorders for emergency hospital evaluation to ensure the appropriate care for individuals who may be self-medicating or have other underlying mental and behavioral health needs; and for changes in Medicaid law to allow funding to be used for mental health facilities with more than 16 beds.

Strategy 3: Workforce Development

HSC response: HSC will contribute to the Long Term strategies for economic security for individuals experiencing homelessness by continuing to provide the holistic array of supportive services at the Campus, as well as expanding upon the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) initiative. SOAR connects individuals more rapidly to SSI and SSDI to connect people with income in order to afford housing. HSC is also partnered with Maricopa County on a grant for justice involved individuals with opioid disorder, and we will share the results of this program with the City of Phoenix for possible expansion.

Strategy 4: Housing Strategies

HSC response: Within the City of Phoenix Housing Strategies, HSC directly connects with the Shelters section. In the Short Term, HSC is partnered with Maricopa County on a short-term hotel arrangement to provide immediate bridge housing for individuals transitioning from the street to home. In the Medium Term, HSC will provide input and expertise to the creation and implementation of a regional strategy to increase the number of emergency and low barrier shelter beds and bridge housing valley wide. In the Permanent Supportive Housing section HSC will continue to advocate for more Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in order to meet the increased population in Arizona and Maricopa County. The HSC agreement with Maricopa County to expand supportive services for justice involved individuals with opioid disorder may be able to assist with the Medium Term strategy of providing rental assistance and supportive services.

Strategy 5: Encampment Cleanups

HSC Response: In the Long Term section, HSC will work with the City on the item that states - "Contract a private vendor to work with Human Services campus for weekly clean ups." HSC is currently contracted with a vendor to provide twice daily cleaning in the area outlined by Stipulation 6.

Strategy 6: Communications Strategies

HSC Response: HSC will participate in the Long Term item related to city messaging by providing any support and contributions that would be helpful. HSC may be able to share online content that the City posts on social media related to information, resources, successes and challenges.

Strategy 7: Policy Strategies

HSC Response: HSC will support advocacy related to Medium Term strategy to increase the number of beds in mental health service facilities. HSC will participate alongside the side in pursuing state or federal law changes related to this issue.

Strategy 8: Neighborhood Strategies

HSC Response: In the Short Term section, HSC will provide any requested support or input to the Neighborhood College class or series to help educate neighborhoods and community members on homelessness. HSC will gladly participate in the Homeless Taskforce or engage as requested. In the Medium Term, HSC will support the item related to an asset map and app for people experiencing homelessness to know where services are and how to access them. HSC will support the item to explore developing a private property cleanup program to help private property owners disproportionately impacted by issues related to homelessness in the area around the Human Services Campus. HSC will also continue to participate in the Healthy Giving Council.

The HSC staff, Board of Directors and partner organizations stand ready to participate in and support the City's **Strategies to address homelessness** at your request. Please contact me with any questions.

Amy Schwabenlender
Executive Director

Thank you