



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

A 30-day public comment period will be announced soon for the City of Mesa's proposed Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Annual Action Plan. Visit www.mesaaz.gov/housing or www.mesanow.org for details.

The Annual Action Plan includes specific activities recommended for funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. It also includes the City's Human Services programs which receive money from the General Fund and contributions from the ABC: A Better Community program. The funds are used for housing and community development activities that benefit low and moderate-income residents and assist in the prevention or elimination of slum and blighting influences.

If prior year funding is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City anticipates the following allocations for FY 18/19:

- CDBG (public service) \$481,530
- CDBG (non-public service) \$2,086,631
- HOME \$916,811 (plus prior year funds \$1,373,727)
- ESG \$268,524

Total HUD funding \$3,753,496

While allocations are based on prior year funding, HUD may be reducing 18/19 funding. The actual allocated amounts probably will not be known until May or June.

Human Services programming is expected to remain stable. Based on last year's allocations, funding for FY 18/19 should be \$720,000. This would make total HUD and Human Services funding \$4,473,496. along with the prior year funding for HOME projects of more than \$1.3 million that is expected to be carried over.

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY PLAN UPDATE

The Mesa Housing Services Governing Board approved an update of the 2018-2019 Public Housing Authority Annual Plan, required by HUD, which assists families with rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The update included technology improvements such as the online waiting list application, and outreach efforts to landlords including a Landlord Fair that will be held Oct. 11.

The Board was also told that 191 federal VASH vouchers were allocated to the City of Mesa to house homeless veterans and 145 of those vouchers are being utilized.



POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT

On Jan. 23, 102 volunteers participated in the annual Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Point In Time Homeless Count in Mesa. The volunteers, who included Mesa police officers and outreach workers, deployed in groups of three or four that morning to count and interview homeless individuals and their families in various parts of the City. They interviewed 144 people.



The information received from the surveys helps local governments and nonprofit organizations more effectively allocate resources necessary to meet the needs of the homeless population. Cities, such as Mesa, that receive federal funding for homeless assistance from HUD are required to conduct an annual comprehensive count.



FUNDING AVAILABLE TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The City of Mesa is seeking applications from eligible nonprofit Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) and nonprofits looking to qualify as a CHDO for HOME funding in the 2018/2019 fiscal year that can be used to acquire, rehabilitate or construct affordable single-family housing within the City that will be sold to qualified low and moderate income households.

HUD is making more than \$680,000 in HOME funding available for the program. Proposed projects are expected to proceed to an initial closing by Aug. 31. The City of Mesa may provide down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible homebuyers.

Applications are available online at www.mesaaz.gov/residents/housing-community-development/home-investment-partnership-program. The deadline to apply is Thursday, June 7 at 6 p.m.



POVERTY SIMULATION TRAINING

A Poverty Simulation Training is being held Monday, April 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mesa Public Safety Training Facility, 3260 N. 40th St. The training is jointly sponsored by the City's Diversity Office and A.T. Still University.

A trained facilitator will conduct this interactive immersion experience to help participants bridge the gap from misconception to understanding the effects of poverty. During role-playing scenarios, participants adopt a new persona to better understand what it is like for a low-income family trying to survive from month-to-month. Through this training we hope to educate participants about the realities of poverty and the hardships of accessing fair housing, and to inspire better customer service.

The event honors the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which sought to eliminate discrimination in housing opportunities and to affirmatively further housing choices for all.

April has also been declared Fair Housing Month by HUD and all agencies, institutions and individuals in Mesa are being encouraged to abide by the letter and spirit of the Fair Housing Act.

NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: A NEW LEAF

A New Leaf is proud to provide a continuum of housing services in Mesa and throughout the valley. A New Leaf operates homeless shelters for single men, single women and families. In addition, A New Leaf facilitates a rapid rehousing program. These programs are funded in part by the City of Mesa. Finally, its Permanent Supported Housing units on the La Mesita Campus in west Mesa are funded through project based vouchers from Mesa as well.

Their homeless service programs are an integral part of A New Leaf's twenty-nine programs overall. A New Leaf is happy to be so generously supported by Mesa!



SAVE THE FAMILY COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTER OPENS



Save the Family officially opened the Tony and Ann Merritt Conference Center during a special ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 27. Mayor John Giles, Councilmember Chris Glover and Housing and Community Development Director Liz Morales were among those participating in the event.

The 2,400 square-foot conference facility on the Save the Family campus, 129 E. University Drive, provides additional space for classes that include financial literacy, job readiness, life-skills, parenting and support groups. It offers meeting space for board and staff and will be available to any 501(c)3 nonprofit in the East Valley that needs meeting space.

Funded primarily by a CDBG grant provided by the City of Mesa, the conference center has two meeting rooms that can be combined as one large meeting space with audio/visual and teleconferencing capacity. It also has offices and a catering kitchen.

The conference center is named for Tony and Ann Merritt. Ann and her late husband, Tony, started supporting Save the Family and its programs and services that lift people out of poverty in 2000, not long after first learning about the nonprofit organization.



ONE MESA

Mesa is a city with a rich and diverse population that is vibrant, interesting and economically robust. Mayor John Giles and the City Council believe that recognizing and respecting our differences creates a strong and successful community. With input from the Human Relations Advisory Board, that is why the One Mesa community pledge was introduced in the city in 2015.

The pledge aims to recognize the diversity of Mesa and acknowledge its role in making our city great. It states that every one of us has the right to feel valued, understood and respected.



Groups, businesses and individuals are reminded to sign the pledge at www.onemesapledge.org.

GREAT EMPLOYEES

BRYAN GOODWIN, Citywide Volunteer Program Coordinator, was praised in an email from Warren McFaul of Hillier, Ontario, Canada who volunteered at the Point In Time Homeless Count. Warren was impressed by the positive interactions with homeless people, the ability to offer services to them and the large number of volunteers who got up early that morning to help with the project. He wrote, "My small amount of time spent with your citizens and your police officers compels me to send you sincere congratulations. It was a tiny snapshot of one project, but it gives me hope that social problems can be addressed in a positive manner by citizens working together."

MAURICE BRUNDIDGE, Community Revitalization Specialist, was praised by his co-workers for being approachable, a good listener, down to earth, trustworthy and for trying to see the other person's point of view. Hired in 2015, he assists the department's Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Environmental Reviews and serves as assistant underwriter for the department's real estate development projects. Since last fall, Maurice has served as project manager for the City's CDBG Homeownership Rehabilitation Program. He has assisted with all the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects including La Mesita III, El Rancho II and the Artspace Lofts.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

SAT, APRIL 14. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT. 8am-Noon. Center Street Facility, 2412 N. Center St.

SAT., APRIL 14. CELEBRATE MESA. 10am-2pm. Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St.

MON., APRIL 16. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

WED., APRIL 18. VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FAIR. 4pm-7pm. Mesa Public Library Saguaro Room, 64 E. 1st St.

MON., APRIL 30. POVERTY SIMULATION TRAINING. 1pm-4pm. Mesa Public Safety Training Facility, 3260 N. 40th St.

THUR., MAY 3. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MAY 7. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MAY 21. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 4. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 18. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JULY 2. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

WED., JULY 4. ARIZONA CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM. 6pm-10pm. Mesa Convention Center complex, 263 N. Center St.

MON., JULY 9. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.



CONTACT:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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