



# HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

## HUD AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING (UPDATE W/ANNUAL PLAN 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD)

The City of Mesa is reviewing funding requests received from City departments and non-profit organizations for its Program Year 2019-20 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The requests are part of HUD's 19/20 Annual Action Plan. 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, consisting of donations from the public made through their utility bill payments. 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.

The City will receive the following allocations for FY 19/20:

- CDBG \$3,729,487 (public service and non-public service)
- HOME \$2,056,261 (includes \$700,000 in prior year funds)
- ESG \$308,423

Human Services funding is expected to remain stable at \$720,000. This is the same amount allocated in the previous fiscal year.

The 30-day public comment period for the proposed Annual Action Plan is now underway and continues through June 12. You can also provide feedback about the Annual Action Plan during two public hearings Thursday, May 23 at 7 a.m. at Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, 7550 E. Adobe and Monday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Room 170. City Council is scheduled to give final approval June 17. Once approved, it will be submitted to HUD by June 30.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted online at [www.mesaaz.gov/housing](http://www.mesaaz.gov/housing).

## NSP UPDATE

One house is currently for sale as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization 3 Program (NSP3) and one home is in the process of being rehabilitated before it becomes available for sale.

The City of Mesa has sold 22 properties as part of the NSP3 program.

The NSP program, which began in 2009, provides funding from HUD for communities to acquire foreclosed or abandoned homes and rehabilitate, resell or develop them to stem the declining property values of neighboring homes. All 39 homes purchased as part of the original NSP program have been sold. However, money left from that program is being used as part of the funding for Eagles Park, which is being built at Horne and Broadway.

For more information about the NSP program, visit [www.yourmesahome.com](http://www.yourmesahome.com).

## CHANGES TO VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Mesa Housing Services Governing Board, at its April 4 meeting, approved modifications to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan, effective July 1, 2019. Modifications include:

- 28 Family Unification Program Vouchers. This type of voucher will target families in the Department of Child Safety program or young people 18-24 who have aged out of the foster care program.
- 28 vouchers will be available for mainstream and non-elderly people with disabilities.
- Lead-based paint reporting and data sharing requirements. If lead hazards are identified during the risk assessment, the owner must complete hazard reduction activities within 30 days.
- A request for proposal will be issued for 20 project-based VASH vouchers to help homeless veterans and their families. This could be in new or rehabbed multi-family housing in smaller complexes such as 4-plex or 8-plex units.

One of the goals for 2019 is to encourage more landlords to participate in the housing voucher programs. Those interested should contact Mary Brandon, Housing Supervisor, at (480) 644-5852.

SECTION  
8  
Vouchers

## NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: COMMUNITY COURT

Community Court is a portion of the Mesa City Court system that is geared towards getting persons with needs within our community met with services. Officers on the street recognize a person experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental illness or other issues and can cite a person into Community Court when in a violation situation. This is in lieu of incarceration. When they get to court, they are offered help that meets their needs to improve their situation. Navigators from Community Bridges, MARC (Marc Community Resources), NAFFA (Native American Families and Fathers Association) and Lutheran Indian Ministries help guide people on a path to improve their situation. When they complete what is asked of them, they are graduated and presented with a certificate.

Community Court differs from most specialty courts in the sense that it is person centric as opposed to most that are crime centric. The Court focuses on each individual's needs and help them progress.

Previously, the focus was on the enforcement model of judicial system. This only works when people are stable. When the chaos of addiction, mental illness and homelessness are so significant, they violate laws and ordinances in many cases out of necessity and survival. The Judicial system works on the deterrence model.

Mesa's Community Court program was recently recognized by the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals with an Innovation Award.



This works for people who are stable and does not work for people who are in chaos. The goal of Community Court is to elevate people into the deterrence model by providing them services to help them improve their lives. In return, the Court reduces or eliminates all of their charges and fines. In most cases, their slate is wiped clean.

The Court started July 2, 2018 and by the end of February 2019, 41 people graduated! The majority now have housing and jobs. The 41 graduates, going back to 2006, accounted for nearly 700 arrests and more than 2500 police contacts. Since graduating, only 3 have been re-arrested.

One of the Court's successes, Arricka Cox, is a great example of the program's results. Ms. Cox found herself homeless due to a string of unforeseen circumstances that began with losing her job, getting hit by a car and later hospitalized with pneumonia. She participated in Community Court after collecting several citations for vagrancy over a six-year period. Arricka graduated from Community Court, used a housing voucher to get an apartment, earned back her massage therapy license and is now working at a popular nationwide massage chain. She is committed to helping others who are homeless. Arricka spoke at Mayor John Giles' State of the City Breakfast Feb. 5.

Funding for Community Court is from Community Development Block Grants.

### EMPLOYEE NEWS

- **DIANA PADILLA** is a new Housing Specialist, effective March 18
- **FATIMA FREIG** is a new Financial Specialist, effective March 25



## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

**SAT., MAY 18.** GILBERT ROAD LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION GRAND OPENING. 9am-Noon. Gilbert & Main Park-and-Ride, 1954 E. Main St.

**MON., MAY 20.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**THUR., MAY 23.** PUBLIC MEETING FOR CDBE, HOME, ESG, HUMAN SERVICES PROJECTS. 7am. Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, 7550 E. Adobe

**MON., JUNE 3.** PUBLIC MEETING FOR CDBG, HOME, ESG, HUMAN SERVICES PROJECTS. 5:30pm. Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Room 170

**MON., JUNE 3.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**MON., JUNE 17.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**THUR., JUNE 27.** HOUSING SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD. 7:45am. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

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

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

**MON., JULY 8.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.