

People Experiencing Homelessness

It is not illegal to be unsheltered and the City of Phoenix and its Police Department are committed to leading with services when encountering someone experiencing homelessness. The City of Phoenix has and will continue to invest in this urgent need for our community. Below are several measures taken to meet the complex necessities in this area.

- **2022** – Phoenix created the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS):
 - OHS provides support for those experiencing homelessness.
 - OHS uses a comprehensive regional approach to shelter and heat relief, outreach, homelessness prevention and supportive housing.
 - OHS has dedicated \$175 million to homeless solutions since July 2021, with a significant portion going toward ongoing investments through 2026.
- **2022** – Phoenix began hiring private security for engagement and cleanup efforts around the Human Services Campus:
 - Phoenix Police Officers are not present for these outreach efforts unless called upon for criminal activity.
- **2022** – Phoenix partnered to open 600 new shelter beds, with an additional 800 beds planned by the end of 2024.
- **2022** – Phoenix implemented a new protocol for identifying and storing unattended property:
 - Protocol allows property owners a 48-hour period to remove belongings after an unattended property notice is left at the site.
 - If not claimed, storable property is gathered and stored for 45 days.
 - If property is moved to storage, a second notice is left in the area with a number to call for retrieving property.
 - The city does not require people to physically come to a location to retrieve their belongings. People looking to be reunited with their items can call the designated property number and staff will bring the items directly to them. This is an opportunity to connect people experiencing homelessness with resources and a safer place.
- **2023** – Phoenix partnered to open 420 new shelter beds, with an additional 800 beds planned by the end of 2024.