



City of Tucson Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team & Heat Resiliency Collaboration

Housing First Team
Housing and Community Development

What is MDOT?

MDOT Overview **Primary Activities**

- **A key activity of the MDOT project is to promote permanent housing and financial stability, health, and well-being among persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness through encampment outreach.**

**HUD AWARDED THE CITY OF TUCSON
COC PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,115,271.00**

About MDOT

Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team:

This is a team of skilled outreach professionals from multiple organizations that work together to address high-needs encampments identified in the Continuum of Care service area through City and County homeless protocol actions, local law enforcement agencies and other community stakeholders.



COT

OPCS

El Rio

MDOT Services

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OPCS

Emergency/bridge shelter units, housing navigation services, veteran housing, re-entry services, sober living communities, outpatient behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment, homeless work program, transitional and permanent housing programs, Coordinated Entry assessment, SOAR services, **employment coaching**.

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El Rio

Acute and **on-going medical care**, medical case management, primary care, OB/GYN services, reproductive healthcare, infectious disease/HIV services, dental services, pharmacy services, Healthcare for the Homeless services, substance abuse and behavioral health services, physical therapy, financial wellness services.

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City of Tucson

Individual and family emergency/bridge shelter, housing navigation services, housing voucher programs, homeless work program, SOAR services, benefits enrollment, case management, **transitional and permanent housing programs**, LGBTQ+ youth services, Coordinated Entry assessment, and referrals.

Understanding the Homelessness Crisis

- **Rising Homelessness**
- After recording small decreases in the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night from 2017 to 2019, data from Point in Time (PIT) Counts demonstrated a sharp increase from 2018 to 2023.
- When considering data reported through the unsheltered and sheltered Point in Time counts, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness on a single given night in Pima County rose by 60%, from 2018 to 2023.



Extreme Heat Goals

Objectives

- Enhance community awareness of heat risks
 - Provide accessible cooling centers
- Promote health and safety during extreme heat events

New Cooling Center in Tucson

- The City of Tucson opened a cooling center to provide a safe, comfortable space for individuals to escape the extreme heat.
- The center helped people recover and relax, offering a secure environment away from the punishing summer temperatures.

Introducing COOLtainers

- Two "COOLtainers" were donated by the Arizona Department of Health Services and the governor's office.
- The COOLtainers were located at the Amazon Shelter (1135 W. Miracle Mile) and serve as a restful haven, allowing individuals to get out of the sun and heat.

City of Tucson Cooling Centers

New Cooling Site Addition

Adds to six existing City of Tucson centers opened until August 31, from noon to 4 p.m., daily, closed on holidays.

Donna Liggins
Center

El Pueblo Center

El Rio Center

Freedom Center

Morris K. Udall Center

Randolph Center

Additional Cooling Site

St. Francis Shelter (operating at

Ward 3 Office)

New Cooling Center Opens to Bring Relief to Amid Extreme Heat

Due to extreme heat, Pima County in collaboration with the City of Tucson has opened a new cooling center

Location and Accessibility:

The cooling center is located at **1801 S. Mission Road.**

- Open **seven days a week**, providing a safe space for individuals seeking shelter from the heat.

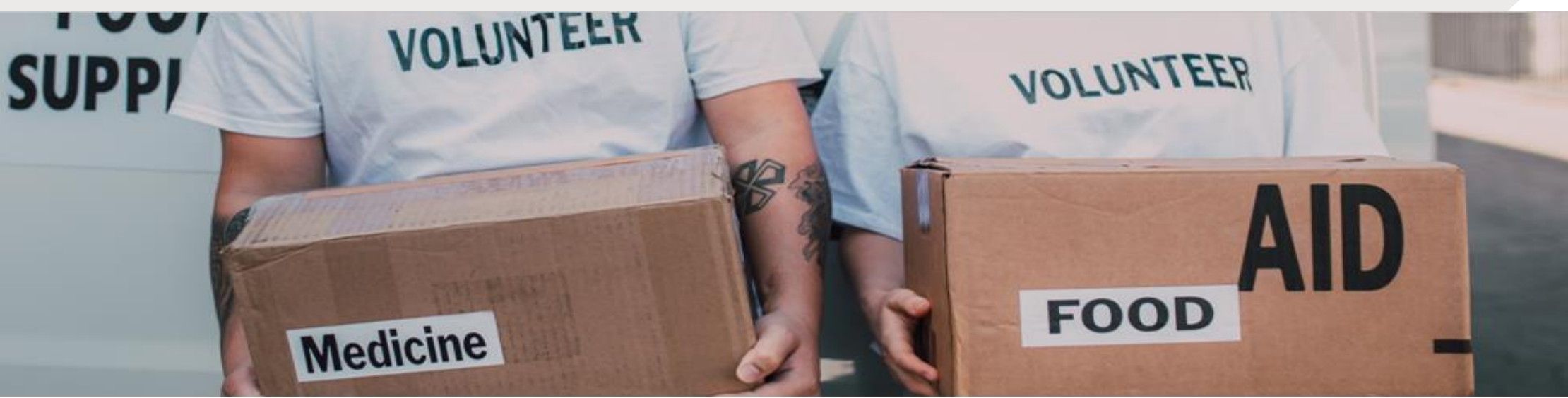
Facilities Provided:

- Equipped with **chairs, restrooms, and water fountains.**
- This is the **40th cooling center** established in Pima County, expanding resources available for community members facing extreme heat.

Role of MDOT During Summer Months

MDOT's Contributions

- Provide transportation support to cooling centers
- Raise awareness among the unsheltered community
- Assist in assembling and distributing heat relief packets



Volunteer Outreach Program

The MDOT Project Coordinator will develop and implement a volunteer outreach program to supplement paid outreach staffing. Volunteer outreach teams will be recruited from community and neighborhood associations, faith communities, businesses, and other groups. Volunteer outreach teams will receive training, ongoing oversight, acknowledgment and recognition, and documentation support from the City of Tucson.

Resources

Other websites used during the presentation

- COT HCD Understanding the Homelessness Crisis:

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/Housing-Assistance/Housing-First/Homelessness/Understanding-the-Homelessness-Crisis>

- Homeless Protocol:

https://www.tucsonaz.gov/manager/homeless-encampment-protocol-reporting-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- Research Dashboard:

<https://cotgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5edc012ddda64303ad822b90e714e911>

Potentially helpful links

- Housing First

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/housing-first>

- TPD- nonviolent reporting tool:

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/crime-reporting>

- Resources for people experiencing homelessness:

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/homelessness-resources>