

COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Services Coalition



United Way
of Northern Arizona



County-Wide Coalition Addressing Urgent Need for Assistance During COVID-19 Crisis

The People of Coconino County are facing overwhelming challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. As the COVID-19 virus grips the nation, Coconino County and its citizens are being particularly hard hit. **Coconino County is experiencing the highest infection rate in Arizona with 150 cases per 100,000 population and a death rate of 10.7 per 100,000 population, which is also the highest death rate in the state.** During March and early April, the numbers of unemployment claims and requests for assistance have been staggering. Revenue from tourism has plummeted. The severity of the situation is unprecedented.

- The number of applications for **unemployment assistance has risen 4,000%** with more than **4,000 claims filed in the last three weeks.**
- **Flagstaff Shelter Services is at capacity;** the housing insecure with underlying medical issues are being relocated to motels to expand the shelter's capacity.
- **Flagstaff Family Food Center has experienced a 40% increase** in the number of families served.

The COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Services Coalition is answering the call for help.

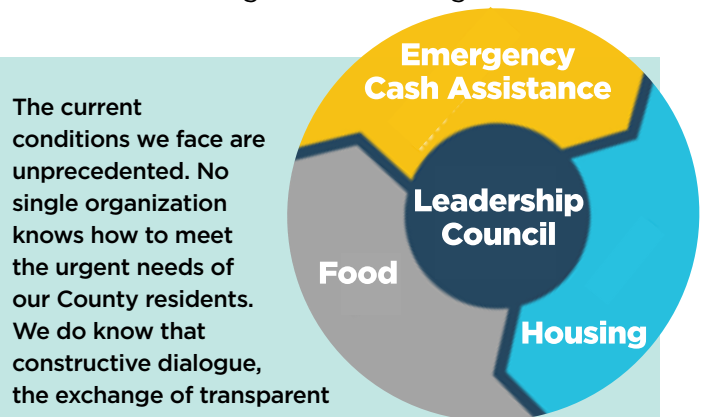
This newly formed county-wide Coalition is a safety net of social service providers who are working together to lead, support and coordinate efforts to meet the urgent and growing needs of our citizens. Although we're unable to fully conceptualize the magnitude and severity of the short- and long-term impacts of this health and economic crisis, the COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Coalition is responding with a dedicated group of partners to ensure our residents have access to the services they need to keep their families afloat during this devastating time.

The Coalition's purpose is to:

- **Fortify existing service providers** to meet rapidly expanding demands for housing, food and emergency cash assistance;
- **Attract and align resources** to maximize impact through a coordinated and collaborative effort;
- **Communicate information** to promote open, inclusive and timely information sharing among social safety-net providers in order to develop assistance strategies, involve funders and inform policy makers regarding the service demands and responses; and
- **Mobilize the delivery of emergency resources** through a strategic framework that identifies service gaps and emerging issues.

Extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary leadership.

The Coalition was established by the United Way of Northern Arizona and Coconino County with a Leadership Council comprised of representatives from three social service sectors: **Housing, Food and Emergency Cash Assistance.** The Leadership Council is responsible for engaging non-profit organizations, faith-based groups and governmental agencies providing safety-net services in Coconino County.



The current conditions we face are unprecedented. No single organization knows how to meet the urgent needs of our County residents. We do know that constructive dialogue, the exchange of transparent information and trusting relationships will help us tap our collective wisdom and find solutions. The COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Services Coalition is the credible source providing the forum through which this takes place.

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COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Services Coalition Leadership Council

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