

Impacts of COVID-19 on Flagstaff's Vulnerable Populations

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Flagstaff Shelter Services

- Currently spending \$100,000 per week on alternative sheltering options for prevention of COVID-19 spread
- 50-90 Individuals Nightly are staying onsite in Congregate Shelter
- 200-270 Individuals Nightly are being sheltered in Motel Rooms
- FSS Staff has tripled in size to cover all three hotels and the congregate site
- FSS operates the COVID-19 positive/awaiting results Hotel – known as Hotel 2 (in partnership with Coconino County)





Flagstaff Shelter Services

- Initial Testing indicated 35-40% positivity rate among staff and clients when sheltering all clients in Congregate Shelter
- Since moving majority clients to motel sheltering there have been 0 positives in 4 months
- Continue to provide consistent testing with North Country Healthcare to identify individuals who might test positive for COVID-19
- FSS provides community surveillance of the area surrounding the shelter in attempt to find people outside at night





Flagstaff Shelter Services



- FSS sees an average 50% increase in request for services during the winter months
- This year FSS anticipates a 60% increase in requests for services due to exacerbating effects of the pandemic and related economic pressures
- Continue to provide consistent testing with North Country Healthcare to identify individuals who might test positive for COVID-19

Catholic Charities

Justice System Reentry Housing

- Three homes in Flagstaff
- Installed WIFI and partnered with TGC to provide virtual recovery services
- Support services funded by client rents
- 50% reduction in rents collected due to job loss or reduction of hours
- Residents struggling to find work
- Not exiting any clients for non-payment currently

Closing the Gap

- Housing for individuals with significant barriers due to chronic substance abuse
- Fills a critical need serving extremely at-risk population
- Expansion potential critical piece to address long term stability of this population

Rapid Rehousing

- Clients are in need of longer and more intense support services to achieve stability
- Eviction Moratorium creates less turnover of units in the community and increased rents from landlords are creating a struggle to locate units affordable to households who have experienced a reduction in income.





Catholic Charities

Emergency Family Shelter

- Critical as we move into winter months
- Utilizing ESG funding to shelter families in motels until a space in alt shelter is secured
- Hoping funds will last through the winter months
- Since July – assisted 90 households with motel stays – a total of \$11,915.45



PATH Homeless Outreach

- Outreach Teams finding an increase in unsheltered individuals from CA (fire and COVID related) and Las Vegas
- Outreach now includes distribution of hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and up to date COVID information
- Ramping up nighttime outreach efforts due to upcoming winter temps
- Adding additional outreach teams through volunteers and collaborations with other agencies for more geographical coverage in critical weather times



Front Door

- Primarily Virtual Case Management and Interviews – Appointments vs. Walk-In
- Increase in calls for assistance including eviction prevention, emergency shelter, motels and permanent housing
- Significant increase in individuals who are at risk of eviction and have exhausted assistance from friends and family
- Many individuals do not understand the rules/laws around the Eviction Moratorium
- When the Moratorium expires there will almost certainly be a greater need for family sheltering this winter – concerns about FSS capacity for overflow





Front Door

- Need for COVID-19 negative testing results to be admitted to many shelters has created a roadblocks for many
 - Some shelters need each family member to test negative for COVID the day before being admitted to the shelter. Catholic Charities can put some families into hotels for up to two weeks utilizing ESG Emergency Shelter funds during this wait however many families have difficulty finding COVID testing sites that provide same-day results
- Front Door has served fewer people since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, but clients seen have higher levels of vulnerability
- Increased number of services & funding available to people experiencing need during the pandemic means those who can navigate services without much guidance are served more efficiently

- **12.3% increase in Homelessness caused by Domestic Violence**
- **13.9% increase in Homelessness caused by loss of employment**
- **3.6% increase in average SPDAT score**
- **1.8% increase in clients identified as chronically homeless**



front door
a pathway to end homelessness

Coconino County Health & Human Services



- **Provided sheltering for over 495 housing insecure COVID-19 positive individuals (March – October 2020)**
- **Meals to our seniors – two meals a day**
 - 15,825 drive through meals at the Senior Center
 - 17,669 Home Delivered Meals
- **Rental and Utility Assistance**
 - 1,085 families assisted with rent and utility costs
 - \$782,518 spent on rental & utility assistance (April – October 2020)
 - 659 City of Flagstaff residents received assistance





COVID-19 RESPONSE:

- Free COVID-19 testing
- Contact Tracing on all positive cases
- Patient Monitoring and Support Resources
- PPE Supply Distribution to the Community
- Rapid Test Kits Distribution
- Flu Clinics
- Vaccination Planning





Coconino County Health & Human Services

Worked in collaboration with the Social Safety Net:



- Provided rental and eviction guides to landlords as part of the **Housing Sector** – over 200 landlords received electronic and hand delivered guides.
- Worked in coordination with food distribution to get families in need connected with a warm handoff for food boxes.
- Expansion of social safety net resources to pull together community agencies to identify gaps meet community need.





HOTEL MONTE VISIT



Questions?

