



TCAA Statement, Current Programs, and Population Served

Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) was formed in 1966 and has since served as Tempe's largest and primary social service agency, offering an array of programs designed to assist individuals and families with overcoming a crisis and improving their quality of life. TCAA's mission is to foster dignity and self-reliance for the economically vulnerable in the communities we serve. The mission is accomplished through five program areas: homelessness and housing security; senior independence; healthy families; hunger relief; and family economic advancement. Combined, these programs serve more than 18,000 individuals annually.

Adults and youth experiencing homelessness in Tempe have had few options where they can seek refuge from the street and help to overcome their crisis. TCAA launched I-HELP 11 years ago. I-HELP is a unique and cost-effective shelter program offered in partnership with a network of 11 Tempe churches of various denominations. Overnight sleeping space is provided by the churches and meals are provided by volunteer groups. Supportive services are offered by TCAA, including case management, mobile shower and laundry services, and assistance with securing employment, other income supports, and permanent housing for up to 40 participants at a time. The program serves 600 males and females annually. No other emergency shelter programs are offered in Tempe.

Last year Tumbleweed, Tempe's only nonprofit serving homeless youth, closed its doors and services are now administered in Phoenix by UMOM. Since the closure of Tumbleweed, an increasing number of older youth (18-24 years) have sought assistance from TCAA. Currently I-HELP is serving an average of 50 older youth annually.

To assist these youth, TCAA's case manager conducts an intake interview at program entry, develops a service plan to assist the youth in overcoming homelessness, monitors and encourages their progress, and coordinates other services and resources with UMOM. Our case manager also keeps case notes, documents services and prepares reports allowing TCAA to monitor the volume and progress of youth in the program. Shelter space, meals, and other resources (e.g., transportation) are provided by the I-HELP program. In FY2019 our case manager will also work in partnership with a UMOM outreach worker responsible for identifying and engaging homeless youth still living on the street. I-HELP will continue to be a shelter resource for these youth, ensuring that they have a safe place to sleep at night and the necessary supportive services to help each one find their way to a permanent home.