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MAYOR AND COUNCIL ADD MILLIONS IN COMMUNITY SUPPPORT Investments bolster housing, meal security, and the arts.

(Phoenix, AZ, USA) – Mayor Kate Gallego and members of the Phoenix City Council today approved substantial investments to help Phoenix become an even more livable city. The expenditures include millions for affordable housing, a hotel-to-housing facility for those experiencing homelessness, meals for those who are homebound, and for arts and cultural organizations whose work helps keep our city vibrant.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've seen a dramatic increase in residents on the verge of losing their homes, and worse, some who have become unsheltered. Today's actions are an investment in solutions for people and families," said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. "As basic needs are covered, we also feed our individual and collective spirit by preserving and promoting arts programs and performances, and by celebrating the wide cultural diversity that makes Phoenix strong."

Funding approved by mayor and council today falls into several categories:

Affordable Housing

The city will issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds, not to exceed \$25 million, to construct affordable housing at Falcon Park, located near 34th Avenue and Moreland Street. The bonds are made available by the Phoenix Industrial Development Authority.

Housing and Help for Those Who Are Unsheltered and Vulnerable

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will support \$8.1 million for Community Bridges Inc. to lease and operate 120 hotel rooms, and to continue its important work assisting people experiencing homelessness to access shelter and supportive services. Available programs will support clients as they move from temporary shelter to long-term, permanent housing.

Victims of human trafficking will receive safe housing, case management, and support services through a \$1.2 million program with Phoenix Starfish Place Corporation. The funding will span three years and is dedicated to healing and empowerment for the operations' residents.



The city will opt for another year-long extension of Home Delivered Meals through the Area Agency on Aging in the amount of up to \$2.4 million. Increased nutrition for seniors, people who are homebound, and adults with disabilities, has empowered many affected residents to remain independent and in their homes since the program's launch in 2019.

Arts and Culture

Nearly \$1.3 million in Community Arts Support Grants will be distributed to 98 arts and cultural organizations. Employing an equity strategy, the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture drew in applicants from all disciplines, budget sizes, underrepresented populations, as well as from all eight city council districts. <u>Click here</u> to see the full list of grantees.

"At the heart of each of these investments is a mother, father, son, daughter, or grandparent in need of a better, more fulfilling life. As a city, we have shown our strength and resilience during harsh times. We're now reconfirming our commitment to improve experiences in every sector of our community," said Mayor Gallego.

Phoenix, Arizona is the fifth largest city in the United States. With a population of 1.7 million, it is also the fastest growing big city in the nation. For more information about Phoenix and services available through the city, please visit <u>phoenix.gov</u>.

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