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New Report Highlights Tempe's Most Pressing Human Service Needs

Community voices shape funding priorities for housing, healthcare, education, and more

Tempe, AZ – Tempe Community Council (TCC), in consultation with Arizona State University's Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (ASU SIRC), has released the results of its 2025 Community Needs Assessment, a comprehensive study conducted every three years to identify the most pressing human service needs in Tempe.

The assessment serves as a critical tool for shaping the allocation of City of Tempe funding and community donations through Together Tempe for human services. For the upcoming 2026–2027 funding cycle, local nonprofit agencies applying for funding through TCC's Agency Review process will be encouraged to review the report and align their proposals with the community-identified priorities. These priorities are outlined in the 2025 Prioritization Summit Report, developed in partnership with local consultant Intersectional Inquiry.

The study, conducted by ASU SIRC, gathered data through community surveys, provider surveys, focus groups, interviews, and small group discussions. Together, these sources offer a detailed picture of the challenges Tempe residents face and the solutions most likely to create impact.

"This assessment is one of the most important things we do," said TCC Executive Director Octavia Harris. "It ensures community voices are at the center of how funding decisions are made and that Tempe tax dollars and donations are directed where they are needed most. By listening to residents and providers, we can plan for the next three years with confidence, knowing our investments will make the greatest difference."

The findings focus on the social determinants of health—the conditions that shape whether people and communities thrive. In Tempe, the assessment highlighted nine core areas related to human services:

- Access to Care
- Healthy and Affordable Food
- Quality Education
- Social Cohesion
- Social Justice
- Affordable, Quality Housing
- Economic Opportunity
- Transportation
- Community Safety

The Community Needs Assessment not only informs funding priorities but also strengthens collaboration across sectors. By aligning funding decisions with community-identified priorities, TCC can support existing partnerships and spark new collaborations to address Tempe's evolving needs.

“Part of our mission at TCC is to identify needs and bring the community together to solve them,” added Octavia. “This process helps us honor that mission and contributes to a healthier, more connected Tempe.”

The full Community Needs Assessment Report is available at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/needs-assessment. Community members interested in learning more, or in volunteering to support the upcoming Agency Review process, are encouraged to visit the TCC website.

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About Tempe Community Council

Founded in 1972, Tempe Community Council (TCC) is a community-based 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on encouraging resident interaction and enhancing human services in Tempe. TCC brings together the community—including government, nonprofits, faith groups and residents—to support Tempeans in need, plan for present and future needs, and build an enduring foundation.