City of Phoenix



Thursday, September 24, 2026

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General Information Packet

If viewing this packet electronically in PDF, open and use bookmarks to navigate easily from one item to another.

1 **Office of Homeless Solutions - Healthy Giving Opportunities - Citywide** Page 3

2 **Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget Supplemental Update Report - Citywide** Page 6

Attachments

Attachment A - General Fund Supplemental Update.pdf

City of Phoenix

Report

Date: 9/24/2026, **Item No.** 1

Office of Homeless Solutions - Healthy Giving Opportunities - Citywide

This report provides an overview and update on the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) Healthy Giving Opportunities.

Summary

The City Council approved the Office of Homeless Solutions healthy giving initiative in the 2026 Strategies to Address Homelessness Plan. As part of the initiative the City will continue to enhance and promote Healthy Giving to create opportunities for individuals and volunteers to give their time and resources in ways that minimize any inadvertent negative consequences in the community. The Office of Homeless Solutions offers Healthy Giving opportunities that provide a coordinated donation pathway for individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations and other community groups seeking to support people utilizing city-owned shelter sites. Rather than unhealthier street-side drop-offs, we encourage individuals and groups to support Healthy Giving Strategies. These opportunities connect donors directly with shelters, ensuring items are distributed safely, responsibly and in a way that truly meets client needs.

Unhealthy giving in the context of homelessness refers to acts of help that, while well intentioned, can cause harm, worsen conditions or fail to address the root causes of homelessness. Giving fresh or perishable food without considering storage, preparation or shelf life can lead to waste, spoilage and even health hazards. Unhealthy giving often comes with unintended consequences: donated food and goods left unattended on the street can pose health risks, leftover trash accumulates in the area and food already prepared by shelter partner organizations can go to waste when clients also receive street donations.

To participate in Healthy Giving at City-owned shelter sites, donors are required to complete an application specifying the donation type, preferred shelter location and other relevant details. All on-site donors and volunteers must be adults age 18 or older. Eligible shelter sites currently include the Turquoise Navigation Center (TNC) (formerly the Phoenix Navigation Center) and the Safe Outdoor Space (SOS), with plans to expand eligible locations as the opportunities grow.

Food and beverage donations must be prepared in a commercial kitchen. Additionally, all snacks and beverages must be pre-packaged. Beverages must be provided in plastic bottles or aluminum cans, as glass is not permitted. To ensure donations can serve the full shelter population, a minimum of 250 units per item is required.

As of now, clothing and supply donations must be new and unused, used clothing is not accepted at shelter sites. However, a system to take in more types of clothing donations is currently being explored. Current areas of greatest ongoing need include socks and underwear, feminine hygiene products, pet food and seasonal needs (such as heat-relief items) shifting throughout the year.

Participation in Healthy Giving opportunities continues to see strong engagement from community partners. A local Phoenix law firm recently provided a full catered meal for clients at the SOS. Faith-based organizations remain among the most consistent contributors: Illuminate Church donates twice weekly (Mondays at TNC and Thursdays at SOS), as well as the third and fourth Saturdays of the month at SOS. Start with the Heart donates at SOS on the second Saturday of each month. Upon This Rock Church donates at SOS on the first Saturday of each month. These recurring donation days have become a meaningful point of connection for clients, who look forward to seeing familiar volunteers and building ongoing relationships through these opportunities.

Since January 2026, through these partners there have been over 70 volunteers and more than 1,500 served clients with food and drink donations. We have also received an estimated value of $8,000 in-kind donations to date.

As an extension of Healthy Giving opportunities for the holiday, OHS is developing “Healthy Giving Friendsgiving.” Every Thanksgiving, the area around the Key Campus (formerly Human Services Campus) sees a surge in on-the-street unhealthy giving. This has been addressed with a coordinated effort and street closures.

“Healthy Giving Friendsgiving,” is a community giving campaign that directs residents and community groups to give directly to local partner organizations. This effort builds directly towards Thanksgiving Day to hopefully decrease unhealthy giving and an onslaught of litter and debris around the Key Campus.

The campaign will include education for the community on what Healthy Giving is and why it matters, along with information on what partner organizations do and what they need to help individuals experiencing homelessness during the holiday season. We are hoping to have at least eight to 10 organizations participate. It will also share details on the Key Campus street closure, so residents understand why it happens and what to expect on Thanksgiving Day. To make it easy for the community to get involved

ahead of time, the campaign will provide resources on how to give directly to partner organizations, including their specific needs, donation drop-off information and volunteer opportunities.

Information on OHS Healthy Giving Opportunities can be found on the OHS website: www.phoenix.gov/solutions. Additional opportunities can also be found on the Healthy Giving Council website: www.givesmartaz.org.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager Gina Montes and the Office of Homeless Solutions.

City of Phoenix

Report

Date: 9/24/2026, **Item No.** 2

Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget Supplemental Update Report - Citywide

This report provides an update on progress in implementing select Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 General Fund (GF) budget supplementals, which went into effect July 1, 2026.

Summary

The City Council-approved FY 2026-27 GF budget includes supplementals that address key Council and community priority areas. Upon City Council approval, staff began working on several implementation steps. **Attachment A** provides an update on the progress of these supplementals. Monthly updates will be provided to increase staff transparency and accountability for the Council and community, helping ensure intended goals are achieved.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by City Manager Ed Zuercher and the Budget and Research Department.

ATTACHMENT A

FY 2026-27 GENERAL FUND
SUPPLEMENTALS UPDATE

	Department/Program	2026-27 Total
	Set-Asides	
1.	General Fund set-aside of ongoing funds to support efforts to address childcare affordability for Phoenix families. A portion of this funding will be used in FY 2026-27 to support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program navigation assistance.	$5,000,000
	Status Update: Sixteen temporary positions were created and recruited for the SNAP navigation assistance program. Four positions remain to be filled and are currently under recruitment. Most staff are waiting for access to the State's SNAP application system, as required security training cannot be completed until the State reopens the training platform on September 14. The electronic scheduling that residents will use to book navigation appointments is currently in the City's Information Technology Services Technology Review Process. The program's operational policies, procedures, and workflows are under development. The program is expected to launch in October 2026. **HSD staff, in partnership with the Office of Youth and Families, are developing childcare program guidelines to establish an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the State's First Things First program. The IGA is expected to go to Council for review and approval in November 2026.**	
	Human Services	
1.	*Client Services* Add one-time funding for flexible financial assistance, which responds to reductions in federal funding and restrictions to federal safety net programs that households rely on for stability. Funds will be administered by the Human Services Department to deliver flexible, needs-based assistance that can help avert crises and maintain stability. The funding will include both targeted one-time assistance and stability assistance. This type of crisis financial support allows households to use the money saved on utilities, rent, transportation, or other basic expenses to put towards other household needs. The program will benefit vulnerable Phoenix residents, including but not limited to those who were former recipients of federal safety net financial assistance programs, including refugees and households with low incomes.	$3,150,000 0.0

Status Update: There were seven temporary positions created for the flexible financial assistance initiative. Two positions are currently vacant but are expected to be filled through a current recruitment process. The Targeted One-Time Crisis Assistance program has received 1,995 applications since the program launched on July 6th. A total of 737 applications have been approved, with $492,800 in assistance provided. The Stability Assistance program has completed the program policies and procedures, the development of the client/program assessments, and updated the Department's case management system. This program will begin screening current City clients for service in September 2026.

2. *Homeless Housing Services* $2,500,000
Add ongoing funding for the Office of Homeless Solutions to expand its housing programming to include the master lease of 50+ units of rental housing that would be sub-leased to people exiting homelessness. Third party leases will serve single adults, couples and roommate situations with stable, affordable housing with on-site support services. 0.0

Status Update: The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) is making meaningful progress on this initiative. Master leasing allows the city or a nonprofit partner to lease units directly from private landlords and sublease them to residents who would otherwise face traditional housing barriers, such as credit challenges, prior evictions, or income instability, while giving landlords the certainty of a guaranteed lease.

OHS has identified 15 private market units it wishes to lease in the next two months to begin its master leasing program. On-site supports for clients in the program will be provided by a non-profit supportive service organization. To support this program, OHS and the Human Services Department issued a procurement for qualified support service providers on July 10. Proposals were due August 7, and OHS will seek City Council approval of the vendor list on September 23. Participants will be drawn from city emergency shelters with the help of a new referral tool developed with the American Institute on Research (AIR), ensuring incoming tenants have stable employment and steady income.

Additionally, OHS and the Housing Department are actively identifying potential property acquisitions in which the Housing Department would own the units, OHS would hold the master lease, and the nonprofit partner would handle on-site support.

Department/Program	2026-27 Total
Parks and Recreation	
1. *Administration* Add ongoing funding to support teen prevention strategies, including tutoring opportunities, enhanced recreation programs for youth and teens, and increased program affordability to ensure Phoenix families can participate in Parks programs. This funding will establish structured tutoring services at Longview Recreation Center, Maryvale Community Center, South Mountain Community Center and Sunnyslope Community Center. It will extend operations at the South Phoenix Youth Center to include Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., enabling the center to operate six days per week. Additionally, the funding will support enhanced programming and youth and teen engagement at the following facilities: Beuf Community Center, Deer Valley Community Center, Desert West Community Center, Eastlake Community Center, Harmon Park Recreation Center, Laveen Community Center, Longview Recreation Center, Maryvale Community Center, Mountain View Community Center, Paradise Valley Community Center, Pecos Community Center, South Mountain Community Center, South Phoenix Youth Center, Sunnyslope Community Center, University Park, and Washington Activity Center. This funding will also improve affordability of select teen and youth programs at Laveen, Deer Valley, Desert West, Longview, Maryvale, South Mountain and Sunnyslope community centers.	$937,000 0.5

Status Update: The Parks and Recreation Department developed a survey to seek feedback from youth/teens and their parents about current recreational programming and what enhancements they want with future programming. The survey launched on August 31, 2026 and will close on September 30, 2026. To support development of the four planned Phoenix Literacy Hub sites, the Department, in coordination with the Youth and Education Office, visited the Aeroterra Literacy Hub that offers programing for toddlers and parents. The department drafted a new Field Operating Procedure (FOP) to support a fee waiver program. The fee waiver program will be implemented at seven parks locations in the Fall/Winter 2026. The South Phoenix Youth Center opened for Saturday use on August 1. The South Phoenix Youth Center team is offering programming and open play on Saturdays. Additional program development is underway.

Department/Program	2026-27 Total
2. *Parks Maintenance* Add one-time funding for security lighting enhancements at City parks. This funding will support renovations and additions to the existing LED lighting infrastructure at five park locations. The improvements will increase visibility and promote safe, enjoyable recreation opportunities for Phoenix residents by providing enhanced playground lighting at Buffalo Ridge, Moon Valley, Sueno, and Western Star Parks, as well as perimeter lighting around Hilaria Rodriguez Park.	$500,000 0.0

Status Update: The Parks and Recreation Department has identified a qualified contractor and is currently touring each park site to evaluate the specific needs of each park to ensure selection of the correct lighting. The new lighting will be installed in Winter 2026/Spring 2027.

Planning and Development

1. *Various* Add one-time funding for customer service enhancements in the Planning and Development Department (PDD). Funding will support improvements to the customer experience for visitors to PDD at Phoenix City Hall. In partnership with the Public Works Department, PDD will identify opportunities to streamline and improve the check-in process and overall customer flow. Potential improvements include creating collaboration space, enhancing signage, and evaluating alternative security and check-in procedures. Additionally, funding will support continued customer service and process improvement initiatives, which may include but are not limited to updating the department's website, developing strategies and educational materials on available services and resources, and providing additional support for technology upgrades.	$1,500,000 0.0

Status Update: The Planning and Development Department (PDD) and Public Works Department (PWD) are collaborating on customer service enhancements on the west side of the first floor of City Hall (1 West and Police Department (PPD) offices currently). PDD has been working with the City's furniture vendor to finalize the design, which includes collaboration and meeting spaces, as well as an alternative process for security/check-in aimed to create a more welcoming and efficient environment. PWD is coordinating the move of PPD to another location and is also managing facilities modifications to support the new design, which is tentatively scheduled for completion by the end of the calendar year.

Department/Program	2026-27 Total
Street Transportation	
1. *Street Lighting*	$500,000
Add one-time funding for the installation of 17 new streetlights and 24 streetlight upgrades as part of the 27th Avenue Community Safety Plan, which leverages technology and community-based resources to enhance safety and improve quality of life along 27th Avenue and the I-17 corridor. These improvements will increase visibility and support a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.	0.0

Status Update: The Street Transportation Department will begin upgrading select existing lights along 27th Avenue and intersecting local streets and anticipates upgrades to be completed by November. Design for the new streetlights is currently underway.