

**TOWN**  
*Of*  
**PARADISE VALLEY**



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**STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** Mayor Stanton and Town Council Members

**FROM:** Andrew B. Ching, Town Manager  
Amy Rebenar, Management Analyst

**DATE:** May 28, 2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Town Manager  
Amy Rebenar, 480-348-3544

**AGENDA TITLE:**  
**Discussion of FY 26 Community Services Funding Recommendations**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The Town Council budgeted \$265,000 in Fiscal Year 2026 for the Community Services Funding program. At the December 11<sup>th</sup> Study Session, the Town Council directed staff to conduct a competitive application process based upon needs in the community. After the conclusion of the competitive process, the application review committee met and has prepared funding recommendations for Council. The review committee was comprised of staff members from the Police Department and Town Manager's Office, as well as two members of Council appointed by the Mayor including Community Resource Officer Vasilije Sagovnovic, Town Manager Andrew Ching, Management Analyst Amy Rebenar, and ASU Intern Erin Sweeney, Vice Mayor Christine Labelle, and Councilmember Liepmann.

**1. BACKGROUND – Fiscal Year 2026 Community Services Funding Program**

At the December 11<sup>th</sup> Study Session, the Town Council discussed the annual Community Services Funding Program, and process. The policy which governs the program gives the Council discretion to either invite applications for funding from government, non-profit, educational institutions, or civic groups that provide valuable services to the community; or conduct a community service needs assessment to identify essential services not provided by the Town or under-served populations in need of assistance. There was Council consensus to direct staff to conduct a hybrid process with a narrow scope of work for needed services, and to invite applications for funding to address those needs.

An application process was initiated in March, with applications accepted through the end of April. The review committee identified the following agencies or programs that would provide needed services consistent with the Council's direction from submitted applications.

## 2. FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Homeless Initiatives

#### **Aris Foundation**

The Aris Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Gilbert. Their mission is to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and crisis through outreach resource distribution, and pathways to long-term stabilization. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program to provide short-term emergency housing for homeless families in the Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Mesa corridor, ensuring inclusion for any families connected to or referred from Paradise Valley. The program funds two-night motel stays paired with minimal stabilization support, ensuring families have immediate access to safe shelter while longer term solutions are coordinated.

Nexus: Because the Town of Paradise Valley does not provide direct services to unhoused individuals, there is a clear service gap for immediate, short-term stabilization options that can prevent families from entering prolonged homelessness or placing additional strain on emergency systems. The Aris Foundation serves homeless and at-risk families with children, with a primary focus on those experiencing immediate housing instability in the East Valley, including Tempe, Scottsdale, Mesa, and Paradise Valley, Arizona. The Aris Foundation has committed to ensuring inclusion of families connecting to or residing within Paradise Valley in their emergency assistance program.

Metrics: The Aris Foundation will service approximately 115 families annually, providing 230 nights of safe motel shelter with placement occurring within 24 hours for the majority of referrals and a utilization rate above 95%. The program has established the following metrics to track outputs, outcomes, and efficiency, which are tracked through intake logs, motel records, and partner follow-up:

- The percentage of families successfully placed into shelter (target 100%).
- The percentage exiting to a more stable situation such as reunification or transitional housing (target 60-75%).
- Successful connection to partner services (target 85%+).
- Cost per family of approximately \$350.
- Administrative costs maintained at or below 3%.
- Repeat usage rates.
- Partner engagement.
- Client feedback.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

#### **Phoenix Children's Hospital**

Phoenix Children's Hospital is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to advance hope, healing, and the highest quality healthcare for children and families. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their Homeless Youth Outreach Program which provides comprehensive care and health navigation services to the unsheltered youth experiencing homelessness, poverty, abuse and other barriers to living physically and emotionally healthy lives through their mobile medical units and fixed site clinics.

Nexus: The Maricopa County Regional Continuum of Care Office's 2025 Point-In-Time Count identified over 1,800 unsheltered youth. Nearly half of the children seen through the Homeless Youth Outreach program are aged 14 or older and often face additional challenges in obtaining consistent medical and behavioral healthcare due to lack of insurance, financial hardship, and limited transportation. Phoenix Children's Hospital is committed to serving unhoused and low-income youth in Paradise Valley and will work with Paradise Valley Police Department on any referrals.

Metrics: Phoenix Children's Hospital will use the following metrics to track success:

- 1,700 unduplicated patients will be provided with exams or referrals.
- 100% of patients seen will be screened for medical and/or behavioral healthcare benefits.
- 250 new or existing patients will be enrolled for medical and/or behavioral healthcare benefits.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

### **Phoenix Rescue Mission**

Phoenix Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to provide life-transforming solutions to people facing hunger, homelessness, addiction and trauma. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their Street Outreach, Food Distribution and Transformations Program serving individuals with a high levels of food insecurity, unsheltered homelessness, and long-term recovery from addiction including direct outreach and support to individuals experiencing homelessness in and around Paradise Valley. Residential recovery campuses in Phoenix support men, women, and children.

Nexus: Phoenix Rescue Mission provides a continuum of care for unsheltered individuals throughout Maricopa County. Their Street Outreach team provides direct outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness in and around Paradise Valley, providing water, hygiene supplies, transportation, shelter navigation, and connections to long-term services. Phoenix Rescue Mission is committed to providing services for unhoused men, women, and children in Maricopa County, including those in and around Paradise Valley, and will work with Paradise Valley Police Department on any referrals.

Metrics: Phoenix Rescue Mission measures success through a combination of quantitative data tracking, outcome measurement, and continuous program evaluation. To measure the effectiveness of their Food Distribution Program, PRM uses the Link2Feed system to measure key outputs such as food boxes distributed, meals served, unduplicated households assisted, and demographic data. To measure the effectiveness of the Street Outreach Program, PRM uses three key indicators: contacts, engagements, and rescues, which represent the frequency of their contact with unhoused individuals as well as the individual outcomes of their clients. They also track water bottle and resource distributions, outreach engagement, and referrals to critical services. The Residential Recovery program uses the Case Worthy database to track participant engagement, program completion, and progress towards individual recovery goals by tracking indicators such as stability in housing, progress in recovery, improved life skills, and successful transitions into independent living.

PRM has established the following goals for the upcoming fiscal year, spanning from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

- Operate at least four mobile pantry distributions per month in identified food deserts.
- Engage at least 3,000 individuals annually through their Street Outreach program.
- Facilitate at least 350 transitions into shelter, recovery, or other supportive services.
- Distribute 2 million bottles of water.
- Engage at least 600 unsheltered men in their Residential Recovery Program.
- Achieve at least 60% participation in wellness activities.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

### **UMOM**

UMOM New Day Centers, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to end family homelessness by restoring hope and rebuilding lives. The specific request is to fund their UMOM Family Emergency Shelter Program, which offers safe, stable emergency shelter, combined with individualized services designed to help families exit homelessness as quickly as possible and build a path toward long-term stability and reduce the rising family homelessness rates.

Nexus: UMOM is committed to providing service to families with children who are experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County, including those in Paradise Valley, and will work with Paradise Valley Police Department on any referrals.

Metrics: To track client progress and outcomes, UMOM uses a web-based database through Social Solutions' Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) platform, fully integrated with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). ETO and HMIS fulfill all system compliance and reporting requirements for agencies mandated to use HMIS and fully meet the HMIS Data Standards established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a secure Software as a Service solution, ETO automatically incorporates HUD required reporting updates, ensuring ongoing compliance without disruption to services.

UMOM has established the following goals for the upcoming fiscal year, spanning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

- UMOM will serve 2,000 families through its Family Emergency Shelter program.
- 80% of families will exit the program to permanent housing.
- 80% of adults will maintain or increase total income at program exit, including earned income and public benefits.
- 70% of adults will maintain or increase earned income at program exit.
- 90% of adults will be connected to mainstream public benefits at program exit.
- The average length of stay in emergency shelter will be approximately 120 days.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$20,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

## **Community Services for Older Adults, Youth, and Substance Abuse Response**

### **Duet: Partners In Health and Aging**

Duet is a private non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to promote health and well-being for homebound adults and family caregivers. The Town has partnered with this organization for many years. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program called Vital Services for Paradise Valley Homebound Seniors. This program uses volunteers to provide transportation to homebound seniors and disabled adults to medical appointments, social service agencies, grocery stores, shopping centers and other locations. The volunteers also help unload groceries at their home or shop for and deliver groceries when needed. They assist with paperwork, minor home repairs, and other routine needs.

Nexus: In the past year, Duet served four Paradise Valley residents, including 13 on-demand rides to medical appointments and an ongoing volunteer match providing grocery shopping support. This reflects the program's role as a responsive, on-demand service for residents with intermittent but critical needs.

Metrics: Metrics for evaluating program success include increasing the number of Paradise Valley service recipients to up to eight and increasing the number of delivered services to a figure between 15 and 40 based on community need.

It is recommended that the Town continue to support this program in the amount of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

### **Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library**

Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library is a non-profit organization based in Scottsdale. Their mission is to provide direct financial and volunteer support to the Scottsdale Public Library to expand the programs and experiences that help the community learn, grow, and connect. The specific recommendation is to provide funding for their program to purchase and install four Assistive Web-based Technology for Education (AWE) learning workstations for Scottsdale Libraries. These after-school workstations give youth ages 6-10 a safe, guided learning platform aligned to STEM/STEAM standards.

Nexus: Paradise Valley does not have a public library for residents to use. Residents in Paradise Valley often utilize public goods and recreation in neighboring municipalities. The Scottsdale Public Library reports that 2,160 library card holders are registered with an 85253-zip code, constituting approximately 17.25% of Town residents according to 2024 Census estimates

Metrics: AWE Learning Workstations can track usage. This data shows the additional need for more AWE Learning Workstations to serve the interests and needs of the children. Data is tracked monthly, including number of users, time spent on the stations, and peak usage periods. A recent 30-day sample across all four branches showed that 618 youth used the AWE stations for a total of 275.5 hours, with highest usage occurring after school (2-5pm on weekdays) and on Saturdays. Usage is expected to grow with the addition of workstations for ages 6-10. In addition to sharing usage metrics, informal feedback from parents and caregivers about how the workstations have supporting children's learning and development will be collected.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

### **Hushabye Nursery**

Hushabye Nursery is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to embrace substance exposed babies and their caregivers with compassionate, evidence-based neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) care and behavioral health care that changes the course of their entire lives. The specific funding recommendation is to provide funding for their program to provide Community-Based Maternal & Infant Health Stabilization and Relapse Prevention.

Nexus: In the state of Arizona, every 12 hours an infant is born painfully withdrawing from opioid dependency. Hushabye has served almost 1,200 babies and their families since opening their doors in November 2020, and their facility is located in Phoenix, a neighbor to Paradise Valley. Hushabye Nursery will provide services to Paradise Valley residents in need.

Metrics: Hushabye Nursery's outcome goals include increased infant and maternal stability and attachment; 90% of enrolled mothers complete at least one prenatal HOPPE (Hushabye Opioid Pregnancy Preparation and Empowerment) session; 75% of participants remain engaged postpartum during pilot period; increased maternal self-reported confidence in caregiving, self-care; observable improvement in early bonding behaviors (eye contact, soothing, responsiveness) and increased postpartum engagement. This project will directly benefit approximately 125 unduplicated pregnant and parenting individuals over a 12-month period. Qualitative feedback will be gathered through brief caregiver interviews and standardized satisfaction surveys. Follow-up engagement indicators, including continued participation in services and connection to additional supports, will be reviewed monthly during Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) meetings to guide ongoing program improvements.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

### **Valley Youth Theater**

Valley Youth Theater is a non-profit organization based in Phoenix. Their mission is to inspire young people to be the best they can be through a variety of performing arts opportunities, serving as a safe place where young people from all backgrounds can learn and grow as individuals, performers, and leaders. The specific funding recommendation is provide funding for their Governor's Award-Winning Literacy and the Arts Program, which addresses the reading comprehension and literacy needs of K-8 students.

Nexus: Valley Youth Theatre has established longstanding ties within the Paradise Valley community through participation from Paradise Valley families, students, schools, and patrons in our programs and productions. Through the expansion of the Literacy and the Arts (LTA) program, VYA saw an opportunity to build stronger partnerships with Paradise Valley-area schools and families by helping remove any financial barriers associated with field trips and access to live theatre experiences.

In addition, Paradise Valley residents regularly attend VYT productions and participate in our educational offerings, including summer camps, spring break camps, workshops, and year-round classes. Throughout the years, young people from across the Valley, including

those connected to the Paradise Valley community, have participated throughout the season as actors, crew members, musicians, and students.

**Metrics:** The program will utilize Pre- and Post-Program Testing, measure participation and collect qualitative data. Students will undergo tests to measure improvements in reading comprehension and word association. The effectiveness of the program is indicated by the significant increase in test scores, which have historically shown an average improvement of 64 percentage points. VYT will track the number of students served, the number of performances attended, and the level of engagement in the program. This includes monitoring the participation rates from various schools and the number of books and study guides distributed. By combining these tools, VYT will be able to assess the effectiveness of the program in improving literacy skills, fostering creativity, and promoting long-term academic success among participating youth.

It is recommended that the Town support this program in the amount of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

#### **NEXT STEP**

Staff is asking for Council direction on the proposed funding recommendations for FY 2026.

#### **BUDGET IMPACT**

The Town Council budgeted \$265,000 in FY 26 for community services and homelessness initiatives. The total recommended funding awards are within the existing budget.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Staff Report
- B. PowerPoint Presentation
- C. Community Services Funding Resolution and Policy
- D. Duet Annual Report 2025
- E. December 11, 2025 Town Council Study Session Minutes