

# Homelessness Report

Prepared for City of Scottsdale  
November 21, 2023

## Scottsdale Citizens Engagement Platform

A plan and purpose for the future!

# PLEASE NOTE

The findings from the report on Homelessness in Scottsdale are the ideas, options, and suggestions gathered from the members of the Speak up Scottsdale community and are not necessarily a reflection of all citizens of Scottsdale.

This report may refer to Speak Up Scottsdale community members as respondents and or community member.

# OVERVIEW

Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members participated in four research activities.

## 1. Understanding Homelessness in Scottsdale Questionnaire

- Launched September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Closed October 31, 2023
- 143 completed questionnaires

## 2. Discussion on Homelessness in Scottsdale

- Launched October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Closed October 24, 2023
- 28 responses

## 3. Discussion Solutions: Homelessness

- Launched October 18, 2023
- Closed October 25, 2023
- 26 responses

## 4. Discussion Homelessness Awareness

- Launch October 25, 2023
- Closed November 1, 2023
- 30 response



# 1. UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE QUESTIONNAIRE



# UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Report Summary

Summary of the **Speak Up Scottsdale Community** questionnaire on **Homelessness in Scottsdale Questionnaire** was designed with 11 questions which included:

- Rating
- Choice
- Discussion

143 Speak Up Scottsdale community members fully answered the questionnaire.



# UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Report Summary Continued

Most **Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members** (57%) did not have personal experience with someone's struggle to find affordable housing.

- 3.23 out of 5 members identified the issue of homelessness a serious problem.

**Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members** primarily defined homelessness as having no shelter or safe place, and the most common emotion they associated with homelessness was sadness.

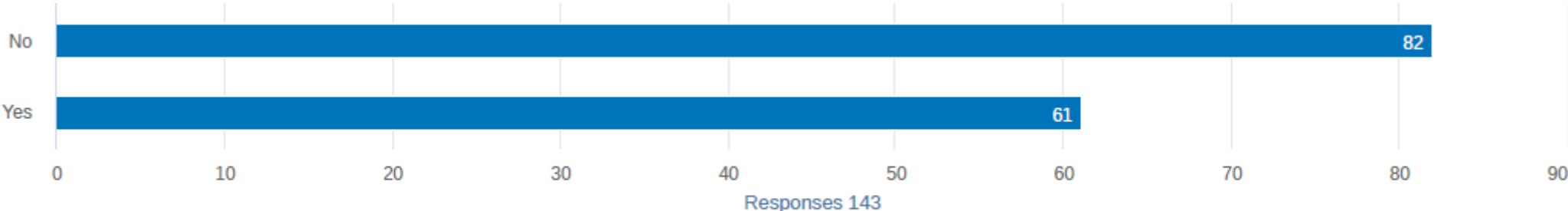
The respondents' biggest concern was safety, among other issues such as affordable housing, needs for solutions, and concern for the individuals homeless themselves.

- 3.14 out of 5 Respondents demonstrated moderate awareness of city programs to support those in need.

(72%) A large majority of Speak Up Scottsdale Members supported the city pursuing grant funding or partnering with non-profits to address homelessness, and there was interest in more information about the city's programs and services to combat homelessness.

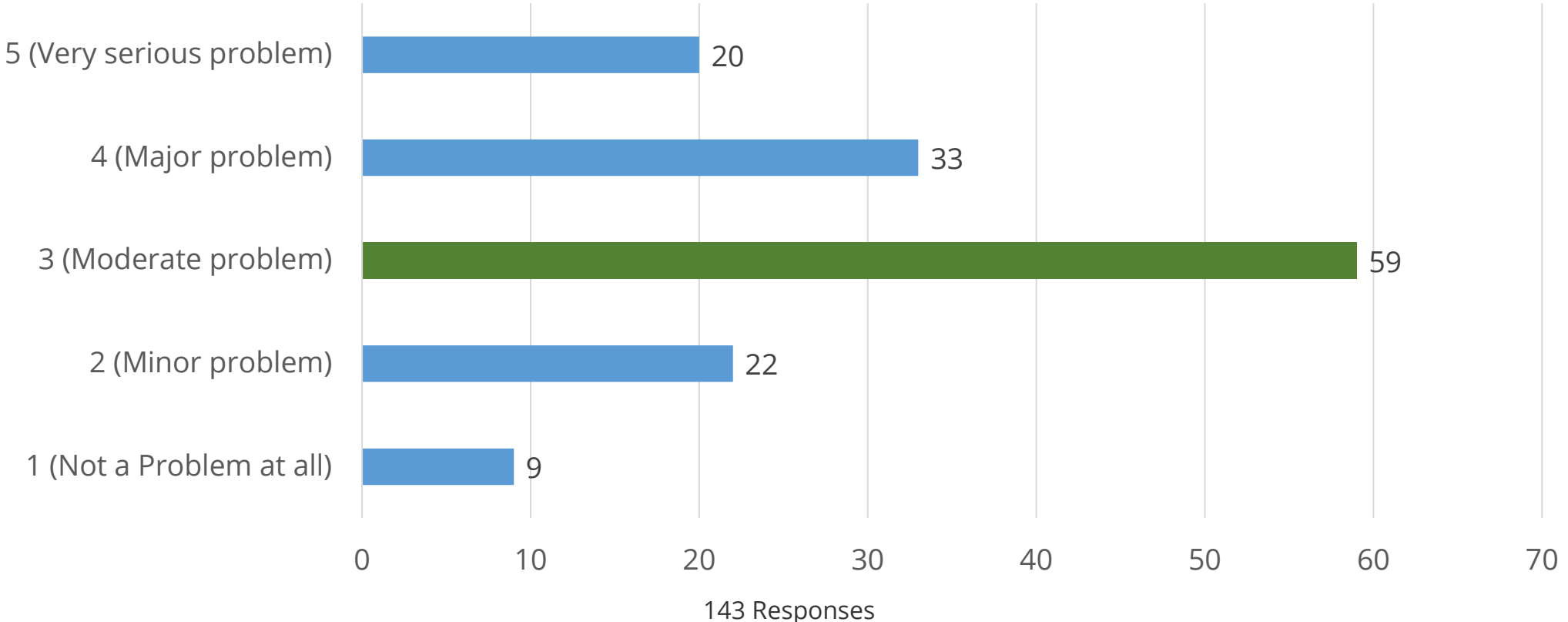
# KNOW OF OR HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH SOMEONE WHO IS OR HAS STRUGGLED TO FIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Of the 143 Speak Up Scottsdale Members 82 of respondents indicated *No*, while 61 of respondents indicated *Yes* that they know of or have experience with someone who is or has struggled to find affordable housing.



# THOUGHTS ON HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE

59 respondents felt the problem of homelessness in Scottsdale is a moderate problem.





# DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

The community characterized Homelessness as the chronic instability and inability to secure long-term accommodation.

It encompasses a range of conditions from living on streets, in cars, or in shelters, to the inability to secure permanent housing.

The community indicated that homelessness may manifest because of financial insufficiency, addiction, mental illness, adverse familial circumstances or unfortunate life situations.

It includes people lacking resources or facing barriers in obtaining affordable housing.

Those affected may be unable to ensure consistent accessibility to essentials like food and sleeping arrangements besides coping with frequent insecurity over their next 6-month term.

143 Responses

Buckets	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses</b>	
No Shelter / Housing / No Safe Place	75
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
No permanent place to live	43
On the street	26
Poverty and lack of affordable housing	23
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Consequence of mental health and substance abuse issues	13
Other	5



# EMOTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESSNESS

The responses collected about emotions associated with homelessness reveal a range of strong emotions.

Dominant feelings include empathy and compassion towards homeless individuals, with many expressing sadness and helplessness at the scale of the issue.

Personal experience significantly shaped understanding for many respondents.

There was also strong sentiment about societal responsibility towards homelessness, with perceived inaction being a common concern.

Despite the challenging nature of the issue, some members expressed hope and a desire to help tackle homelessness.

143 Responses

Buckets	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses</b>	
Sad, Sadness, Sorrow	72
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Frustration, Frustrated	33
Angry, anger	22
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Concern	13
Empathy	13
Compassion	9
Fear	8
Sympathy	7
Hopelessness	6
Personal experience	5
Guilt / Shame	5
Other	5



# BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

This is an amalgamation of Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members' concerns and thoughts, mostly revolve around homelessness, its impacts on individuals and the community, and potential solutions.

These themes surfaced:

- Safety concerns
- Challenges of homelessness
- Affordable housing problem
- Need for Solutions
- Concern for the homeless individuals themselves
- Mental health issues
- Fear of escalation
- Lack of government support
- Community impact
- Effect on vulnerable groups

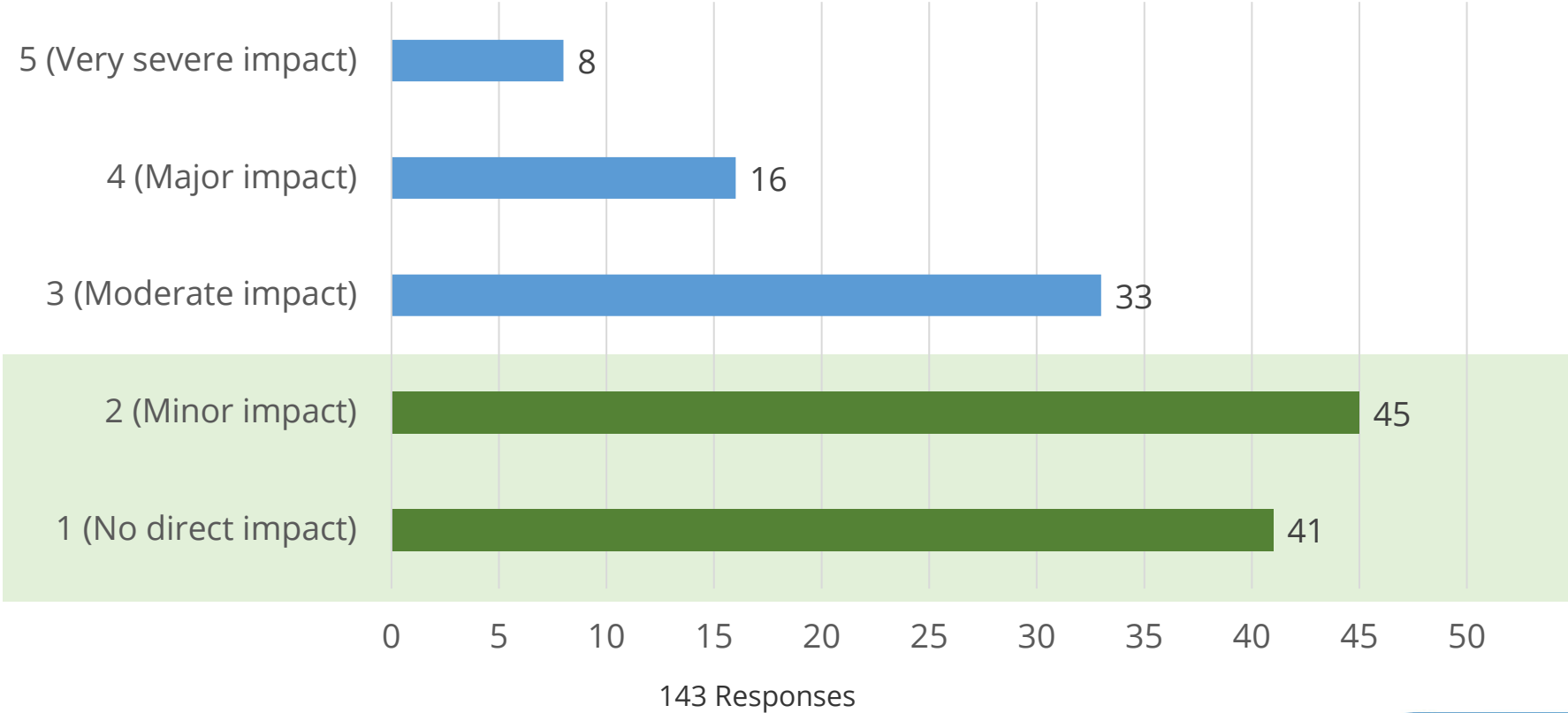
143 Responses

Buckets	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses</b>	
Safety concerns	37
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Challenges of homelessness	16
Affordable housing problem	16
Need for solutions	14
Concern for the homeless individuals themselves	13
Addiction mental health and health issues	13
Other	12
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Fear of escalation	10
Lack of government support	6
Community impact	5
Effect on vulnerable groups	4



# PERSONAL IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS

86 respondents said the personal impact of homelessness is either minor or no direct impact at all.



# IMPACT ON COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Community members who answered the previous question between minor and very severe were asked to comment on their answer.

The following themes surfaced:

- Concerns about safety and crime
- Homelessness visibility and location
- Personal interactions with homeless population
- Economic impact
- Impact on quality of life
- Emotional impact
- Policy concerns

102 Responses

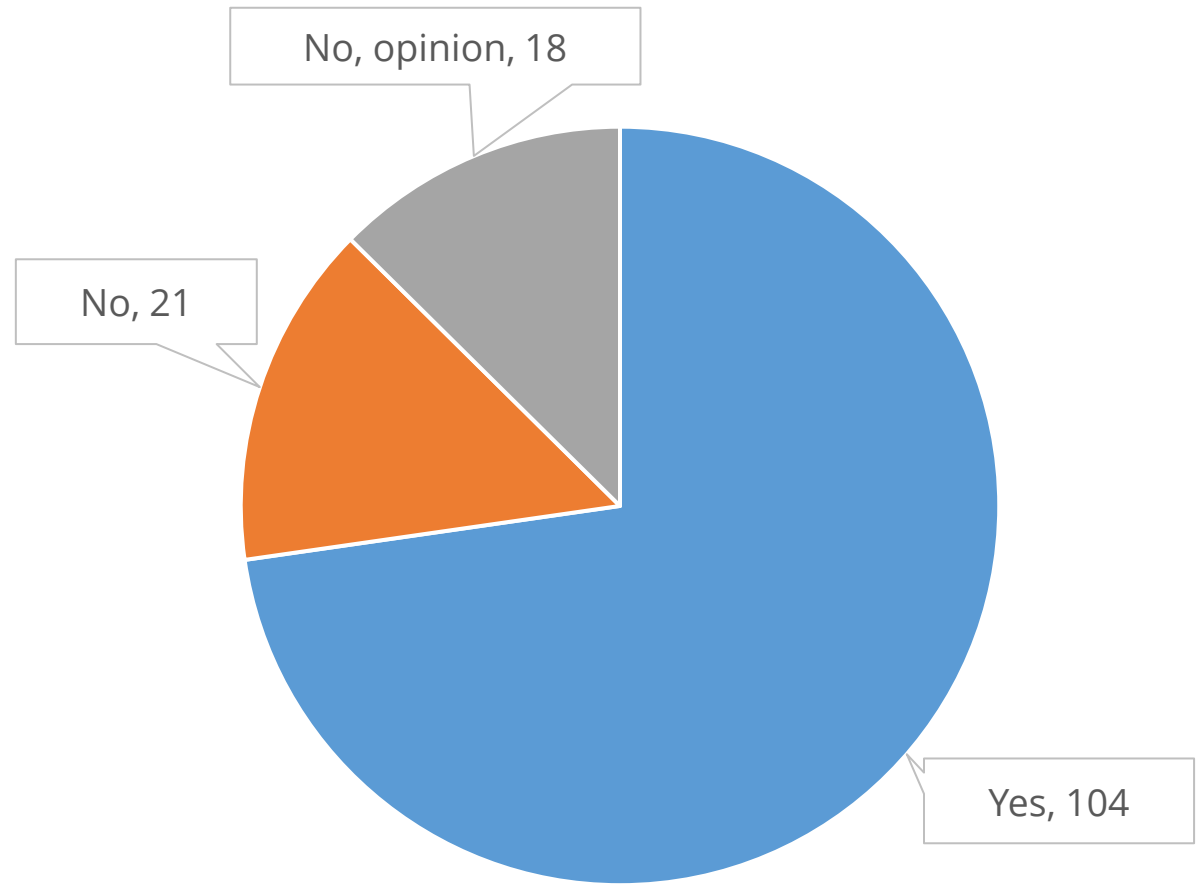
Buckets	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses</b>	
Concerns about safety and crime	35
Homelessness visibility and location	24
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Personal interactions with homeless population	19
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses included</b>	
Economic impact	7
Impact on quality of life	6
Emotional impact	5
Policy concerns	4





# TACKLING HOMELESSNESS

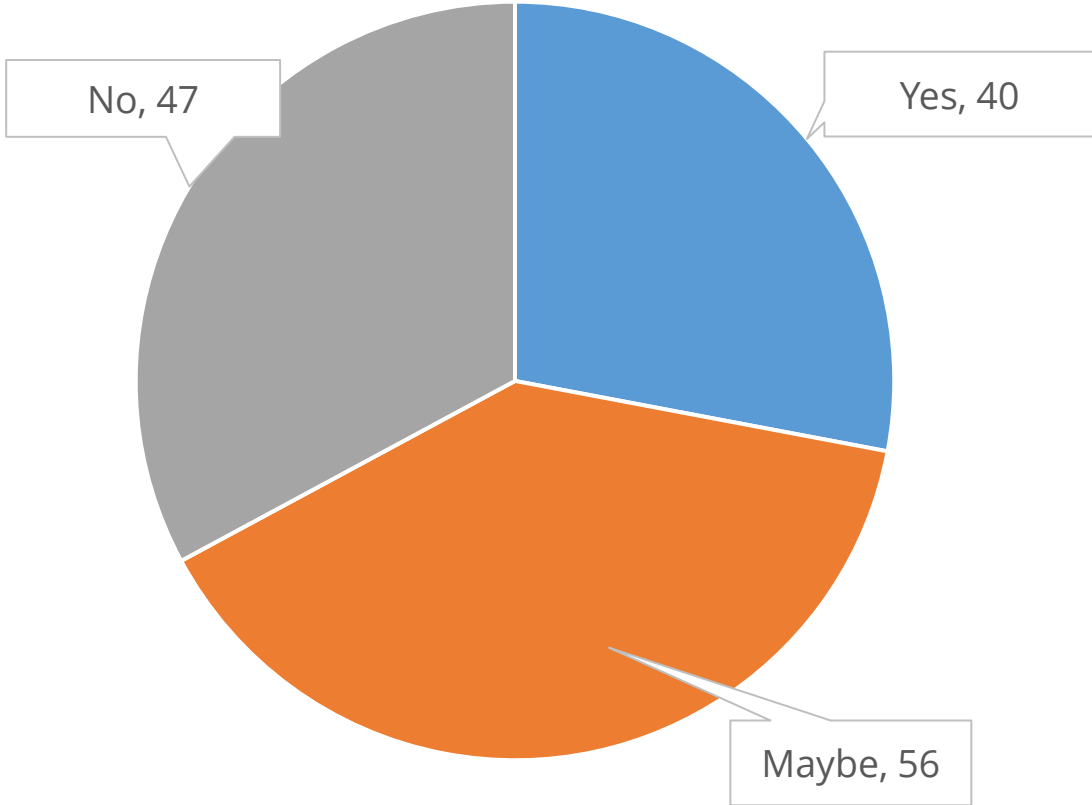
104 respondents said Yes to the City of Scottsdale pursuing grant funding or nonprofit partnerships to tackle homelessness.



143 Responses

# LEARNING MORE ABOUT SCOTTSDALES HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

96 of respondents indicated Maybe or Yes to learning more about Scottsdale's Homelessness Programs and Services.



143 Responses

# 2. DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE



# DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE

## Report Summary

**Speak Up Scottsdale community** offered ideas, suggestions and thoughts about Homelessness in Scottsdale.

Twenty-five community members took part in the discussion on homelessness and provides twenty-eight comments.



# DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTTSDALE

Eight broad themes surfaced reflecting the various perspectives and recommendations provided by Speak Up Scottsdale community members in addressing the issue of homelessness in Scottsdale:

1. Affordable housing
2. Support and services
3. Homelessness Prevention
4. Collaboration & partnerships
5. Transparency
6. Public education & awareness:
7. Procedures
8. Resource availability & access

28 Responses

Bucket	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses were:</b>	
Homelessness problem	8
Support and services	8
Affordable housing	7
Solutions	6
Residents	6
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Cost	4
Education	4
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Homelessness prevention	2
Transparency	1
Panhandling	1



### 3. DISCUSSION: ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS





# DISCUSSION: ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

## Report Summary

The purpose of the discussion question was to understand **Speak Up Scottsdale Community member's** perspectives on tackling homelessness.

Twenty-five community members provided twenty-six multifaceted discussions about homelessness in Scottsdale.

The analysis of the responses provided eight themes.



# DISCUSSION: ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

Eight broad themes emerged reflecting the various perspectives and recommendations provided by **Speak Up Scottsdale community members** in addressing the issue of homelessness in Scottsdale:

1. Community diversity & tailored solutions
2. Existing measures, local impact, and public perception
3. Housing affordability & alternative solutions
4. Special agendas & legal actions
5. Empathy, solidarity, and collective responsibility
6. Expert consultation, transparency & performance evaluation
7. Structural changes & preventive measures
8. Specialized services & support programs

26 Responses

Bucket	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses were:</b>	
Housing and affordability	11
Community diversity	9
Homelessness	9
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Support	6
Services and resources	5
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Necessary actions	4
Legal	3
Outreach	2
Empathy	2



## 4. DISCUSSION: HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS



# DISCUSSION: HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

## Report Summary

There were thirty responses from twenty-five **Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members**. The overall discussion focused on homelessness, and homelessness issues affecting Scottsdale residents.



# DISCUSSION: HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Eight broad themes emerged reflecting the various perspectives and recommendations provided by **Speak Up Scottsdale Community Members** in addressing the issue of homelessness in Scottsdale: Several themes emerged from the discussions:

1. The prevalence and impact of homelessness
2. Understanding the root causes of homelessness
3. Community engagement and public awareness
4. Sustainable solutions and self-reliance
5. The role of government and policy
6. Overcoming NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitudes and fostering inclusivity
7. Efficacy of outreach efforts and collaboration
8. Addressing public health concerns and financial implications

30 Responses

Bucket	Count
<b>The most frequently mentioned responses were:</b>	
Homelessness	8
Awareness Perspective	6
Communication	6
<b>Other frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Help	5
Community	5
Frustration	4
Spotlight on homeless people	4
Outreach	4
Housing	4
<b>Other, less frequently mentioned responses:</b>	
Homeless education	3
Affordable housing	3
Ideas	3
Mental health	2
Enabling	1



# Thank you!

Let's us know if you have any questions!

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## ATOM

