

RUNNING HEAD: HOUSING AND HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IT 8150

Dr. Diroff

Assignment 1

Submitted by: Tim Boileau

June 16, 2005

Purpose of the Assessment

The needs assessment was conducted by the City of Phoenix in conjunction with the Maricopa County Association of Governments. The purpose was to document the extent of the problem of affordable housing for low to middle level income households, and the related effects on homelessness in the greater metropolitan Phoenix area.

Methods Used

It was difficult to determine the methods used in the assessment because that information was not shared in the body of the report. There were, however, references to individual surveys conducted at homeless shelters, and a questionnaire used with city government agencies as part of a financial audit process.

Findings

The findings have been summarized in a separate handout which is attached to this report. There are a number of causes identified that inhibit the at risk populations from obtaining suitable housing. The primary cause, however, is that the groups identified can simply not afford the cost of housing on the incomes they earn. This finding is reflected in different studies covering rural and metropolitan areas across the country.

Lessons Learned by Needs Assessors

As stated in the summary handout, one of the things that appeared to be lacking in this report were lessons learned and interventions. As this needs assessment was conducted as part of a broader five year strategic plan, interventions are addressed in other sections. The conclusions are stated in terms of the causes for homelessness in Phoenix, and the barriers to obtaining affordable housing by the at risk populations.

My Evaluation

Throughout my experience in IT 8150 and the HPT course I just completed, I tend to view needs assessment as an analysis to determine the gaps between the current state and desired state of an organization, and then to recommend a set of interventions.

In the needs assessment I reviewed, it did an extensive job of documenting the current state and identifying causes. What was lacking for me was a discussion of the methods used and a set of conclusions summarizing the data. As stated above, there were no recommendations or vision for the future as presumably, this is covered elsewhere in the strategic plan.

A summary and impressions of the needs assessment is provided as an attachment to this document, and will be covered during a presentation in class.