



## Here are some of the frequently asked questions about the Homeless I.D. Project

### What is The Homeless ID Project?

Homeless ID Project is the only full-time provider of identification replacement services to those experiencing homelessness in Arizona. Homeless individuals often find themselves without access to an ID or other vital documents, leaving them with no access to employment, housing or other basic services needed to end homelessness.

### What is the organization's main goal?

Homeless ID Project is out to end homelessness. Identification documents are a small, but vital piece, without which nothing else happens.

### When was The Homeless ID Project founded?

Homeless ID Project was founded by Rev. Gerald Roseberry in 1988. Concerned about the increase in homelessness in Arizona, Jerry grew a beard and joined the ranks of the homeless for 30 days in November 1987. During this time, he lived in tents and shelter beds in downtown Phoenix and Tucson. He was surprised to hear that much of the conversation was about IDs — who had one; who lost one; how can one be obtained. He learned that without an ID, there were no good options for escaping homelessness.

### What is the history of the organization?

Following his time on the street, Rev. Roseberry established *The Ecumenical Chaplaincy for the Homeless*. He set up shop in the St. Vincent de Paul dining room in downtown Phoenix and began providing replacement documents, including State IDs and birth certificates, as funding allowed — and chaplain services as needed. Over time, 100% of the agency's time and resources were consumed by replacement ID services leading to the decision in 2014 to change the name of the agency to *The Homeless ID Project*.

### What are The Homeless ID Project's mission and vision?

The name change provided an opportunity to refocus the mission and to create a vision and values that act as guiding principles for leadership and the board. Specifically, the focus put "*ending homelessness*" at the front of the mission statement. While the work of obtaining documents remains the primary activity, ending homelessness is the point and this point keeps the agency focused on both collaboration and advocacy.

## **Where is The Homeless ID Project located?**

The agency has primary locations on the Key Campus downtown, Phoenix, in The Center of Opportunity in Tucson, and in as many as 12 shared space locations across Maricopa and Pima Counties. There are plans to expand across the state of Arizona to more rural areas where we know services are needed.

## **Describe the organization's impact:**

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Homeless ID Project provided an average of 7,000 documents per year to those experiencing or at risk of falling into homelessness. In 2023, the agency provided 15,622 total documents, more than twice the pre-pandemic average. This record-high number included more than 10,000 state IDs and 5,000 birth certificates from all 50 states and 3 of the 5 U.S. Territories.

In 2023, The Homeless ID Project supported the work of 50 different human services agencies across the state, helping clients of those agencies to obtain documents needed for housing, employment, education and more. Such partnerships, pulling together all of the resources needed to end homelessness, make the work of the agency both possible and effective.

## **Does The Homeless ID Project lobby for policy change and legislation?**

In 2018, the agency proposed a bill to provide fee waivers for state IDs and driver's licenses for homeless military veterans. That bill now is law. In 2021, The Homeless ID Project proposed a bill allowing youth, ages 16 or 17, in foster care or homeless, to obtain their own vital documents without the need for parent or guardian sign-off. That bill is now a law. In 6 of the last 7 legislative sessions, Homeless ID Project presented a bill for a State ID fee waiver for citizens experiencing homelessness. The bill has not yet passed but the effort to gain passage will continue.

## **How is the organization funded?**

Homeless ID Project is a 501(c)(3) and a Qualifying Charitable Organization for the AZ Tax Credit Program. Nearly 50% of revenue comes from individual donors. 40% comes from Grants and Business entities and the remaining 10% is derived from exclusive partner agreements.

## **How can I donate to The Homeless ID Project?**

Checks can be sent to PO Box 13027, Phoenix, AZ 85002. To donate online, log on to the website and follow the donate prompts. <https://www.homelessidproject.org/donate/>

## **How can I reach The Homeless ID Project?**

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## **For more information about Homeless ID Project?**

<https://www.hidp.org/>