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## Arizona Department of Housing Kicks Off Annual Arizona Housing Forum with First-ever Combating Homelessness Virtual Track

TUCSON, AZ – The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) will be hosting its first-ever [Combating Homelessness Virtual Track](#) – free of charge to the public – during its annual Arizona Housing Forum as the state continues to see an affordable housing shortage.

The 2021 Arizona Housing Forum provides a platform for affordable housing and community development professionals to learn, network and connect in sharing ideas that create and improve housing and community development choices in Arizona.

“Our state continues to grow and we need the affordable, sustainable housing to match,” said Tom Simplot, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing. “While the pandemic didn’t create an affordable housing shortage, it did exacerbate an already tenuous situation. At the ADOH, we’re working with our partners to share ideas and resources to take on the challenge.”

The unprecedented [special track](#) dedicated to combating homelessness will consist of five breakout sessions over one and a half days that discuss affordable housing initiatives at different stages, the impact of two hotel-based temporary shelter programs that helped people survive during the pandemic, private sector funding initiatives to support affordable housing development, and more.

This track is offered for free as a virtual option, live streamed from the event, providing valuable insight for both housing and community development professionals as well as those curious about work being done to reduce homelessness in the state.

To maximize protection from the [Delta variant](#) and prevent possibly spreading it to others, ADOH encourages in-person attendees wear a mask indoors, physically distance and stay at least [6 feet \(2 arm lengths\)](#) from each other.

The Combating Homelessness Track is free but does require [registration](#).

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### About the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH)

Established in 2002, we administer programs to create, preserve, and invest in affordable housing statewide. ADOH does not own or build housing; we manage programs that convey funding to private and government entities that apply and meet criteria developed by state/federal law. ADOH receives no state funding appropriation and most programs are federally-funded.