

HeatReady™ Initiatives: Addressing Extreme Heat Challenges

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Background

Extreme Heat presents a critical and increasingly urgent challenge, exacerbating existing stressors disproportionately affecting underserved populations, and presenting profound health risks.

Starting in 2017, the HeatReady™ Program emerged out of the desire to protect those most vulnerable to extreme heat. The program goes beyond merely reducing heat impacts—it emphasizes preparedness, detailed tracking and impactful response to protect human health from the dangers of heat.

The HeatReady™ program enables cities, neighborhoods, and schools to identify, prepare for, mitigate, track and respond to the negative impacts of extreme heat.

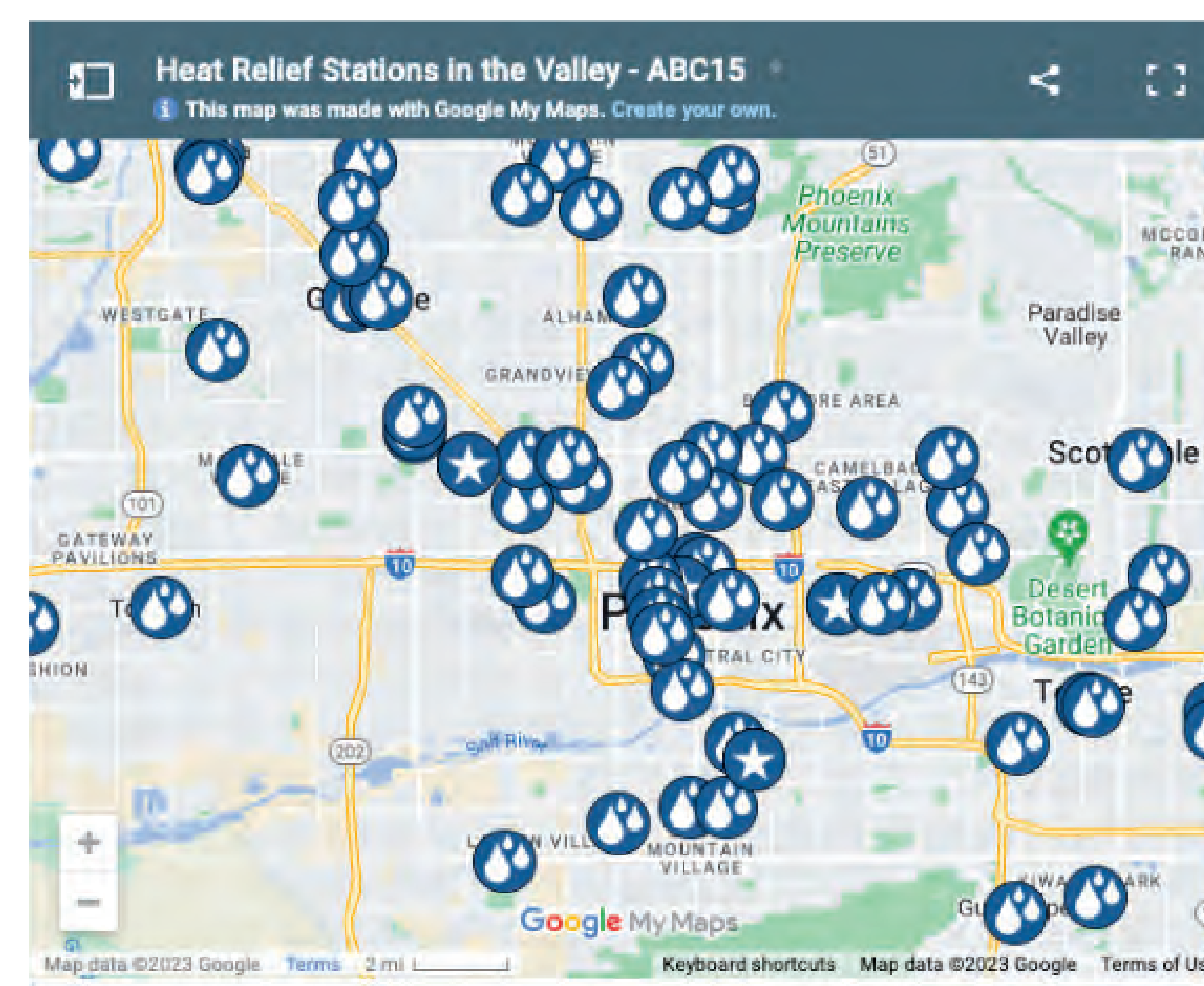
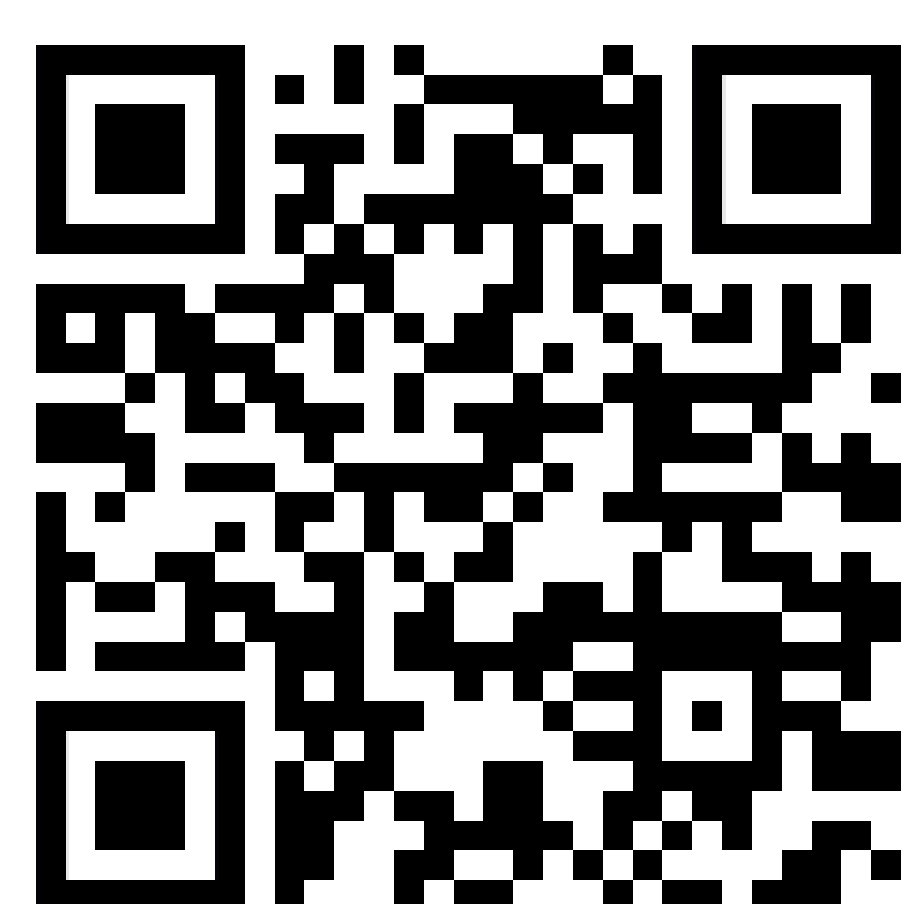
HeatReady™, focuses on processes and strategies that are community-specific, leveraging a network of experts across heat and health as well as local knowledge and experiences.

HeatReady Highlights

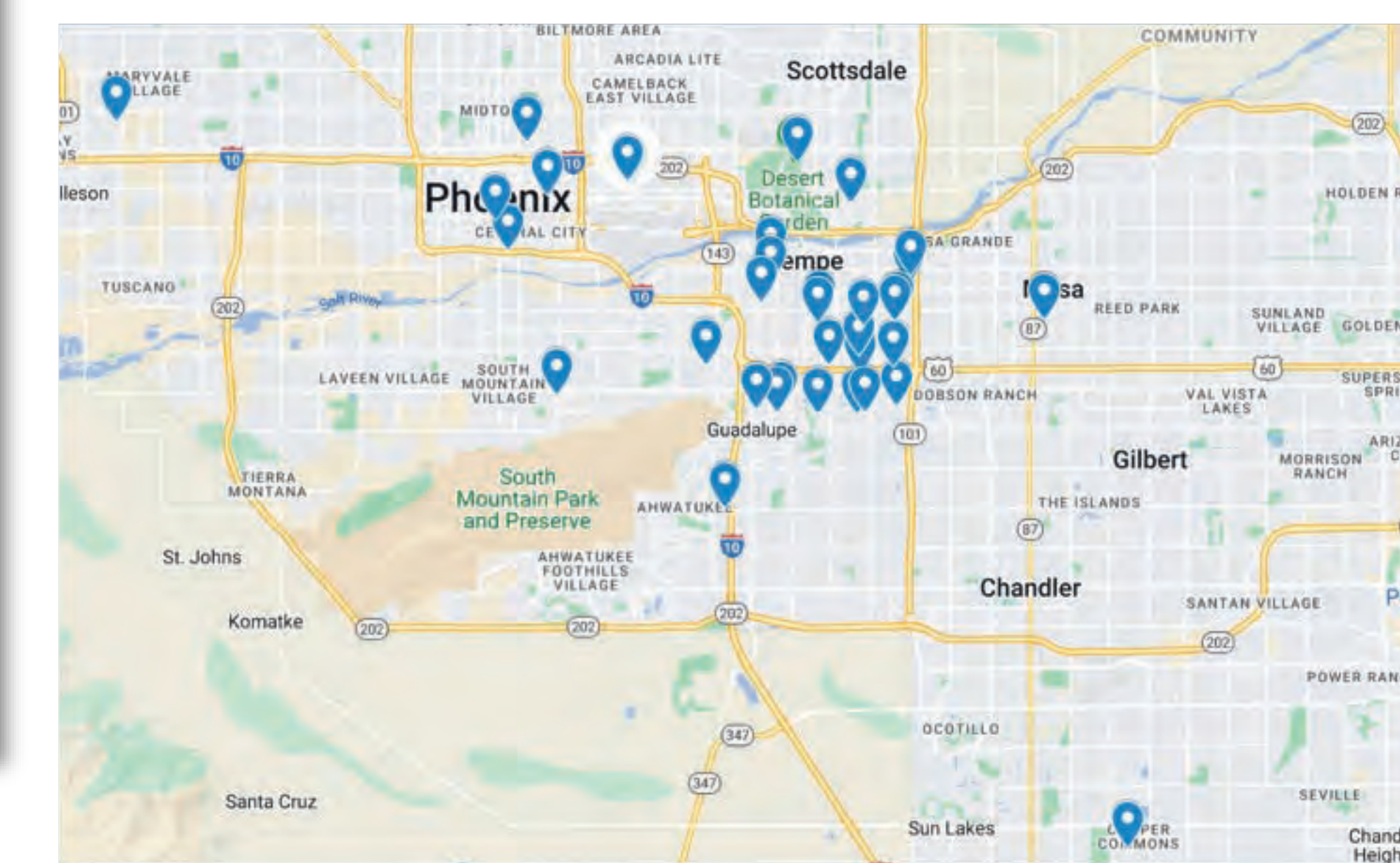
- HeatReady™ Schools tree planting events with TSD3 increasing canopy cover along the Rio Salado.
- HeatReady™ Neighborhoods Community Action Plan developed in collaboration with RAIL CDC for Mesa.
- Increase in canopy and shade cover for schools through City of Phoenix grant.
- HeatReadyPhx's We're Cool Heat Relief Outreach was recognized by the EPA as one of ten exemplary heat communication and outreach campaign across the country.
- HeatReady™ research projects include school temperature measurements and individually experienced heat studies.



Scan to learn more!



Map of HeatReady™ Schools partner schools and community centers in the Phoenix Metro area (2024).



Map of the Maricopa Association of Governments Heat Relief Stations across the Phoenix Metro area during the summer of 2023. Courtesy of ABC15.

HeatReady™ Initiatives

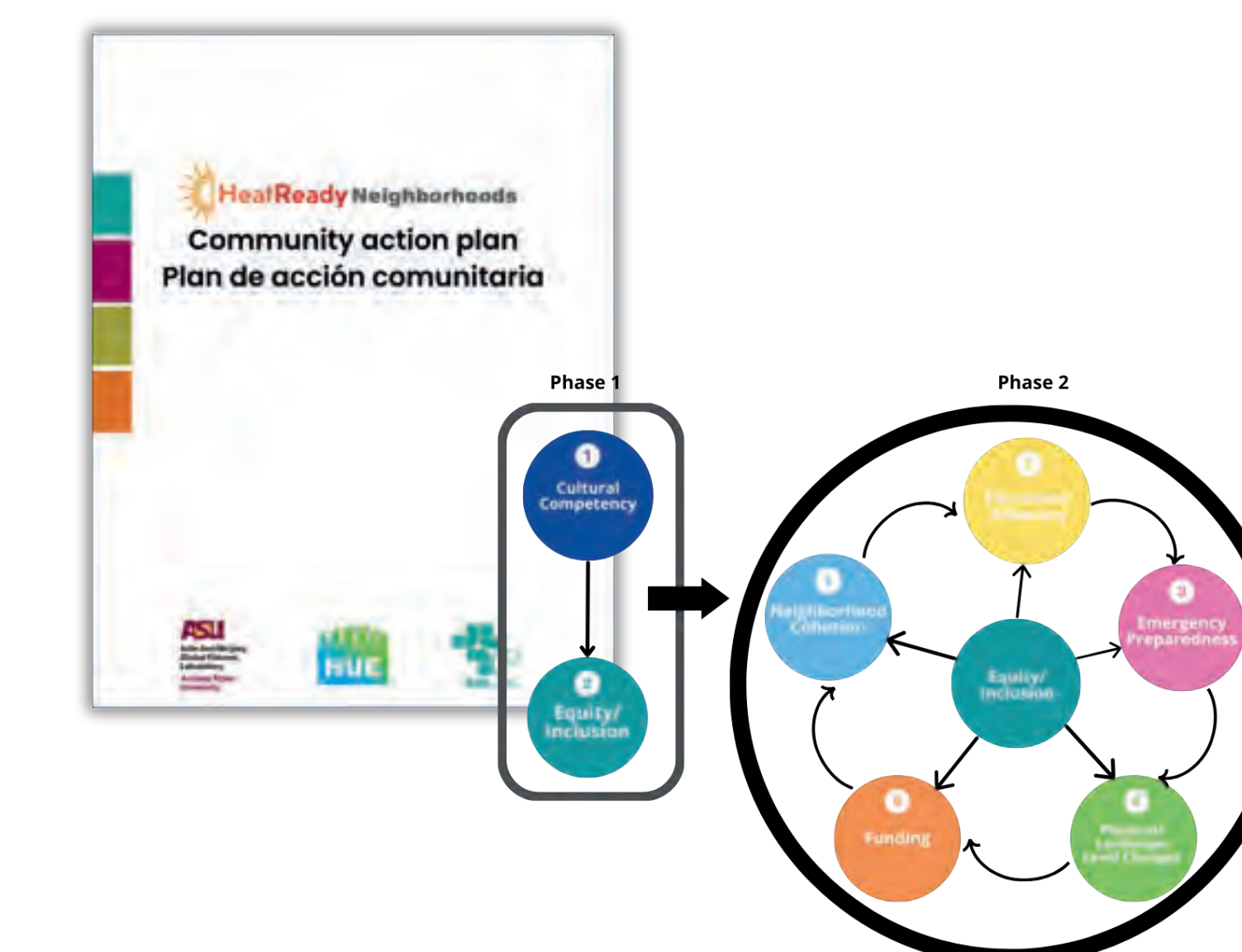
HeatReady™ Cities

The City of Phoenix is spearheading HeatReady™ Cities, with the nation's first local Office of Heat Response and Mitigation (OHRM or HeatReadyPhx), led by Dr. David Hondula. HeatReadyPhx coordinates programs and policies year-round to help lower urban temperatures and protect public health, while tracking trends, collecting data, and collaborating with other governments and organizations to share ideas and solutions to deal with extreme heat.



HeatReady™ Neighborhoods

Community co-created rubric for optimizing neighborhood assets or “heat resource sheds” around equity and inclusion, neighborhood cohesion, education and advocacy, emergency preparedness, physical or landscape-level changes, and funding. Neighborhoods implement evidence-based solutions, creating cool zones and strengthen networks to mitigate extreme heat impacts and prepare for a hotter future environment.



HeatReady™ Schools

30 data-driven recommendations on 5 action areas: Training, prevention, school policy, community, and environment. As of 2023, there are 40 active partnerships in schools and community centers in the Phoenix Metro area. HeatReady™ Schools partners receive tools, resources and funding opportunities. Collaborations with local and state organizations on heat mitigation and adaptation projects.



Sources

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