

2020 LEADERS OF THE YEAR

I N P U B L I C P O L I C Y

JOAN SERVISS

ASSOCIATIONS

Executive Director, Arizona Housing Coalition

COVID-19 magnified Arizona's housing challenges, and in the middle of that firestorm is Joan Serviss, who, as Executive Director of the Arizona Housing Coalition, is working to keep that storm from overwhelming the state. Arizona already faced a housing shortage and homelessness even before the pandemic, and COVID-19 brought these problems into sharp focus. Serviss and the coalition know that the lack of housing options exacerbates people's health problems, and stable housing helps to curb

the spread of viruses, including COVID-19. In response to the crisis, the coalition assessed communities' ability to protect people who are experiencing homelessness from contracting or transmitting COVID-19. Just as importantly, the coalition positioned itself as a resource in navigating the state's patchwork of eviction moratoriums and in connecting Arizonans with eviction prevention and rental assistance programs. Serviss knows that stable housing will not only help fight COVID-19. It is often the key to resolving many of America's problems.

