

Common myths about S.P.I.N., Supporting People in Need

Supporting People in Need (SPIN) is committed to transparency, accountability, and the well-being of the Silver City community. Recently, we've become aware of misinformation circulating in public conversations that misrepresents our services, staff, and mission. This document is intended to clarify facts, reaffirm our values, and ensure that our community partners, stakeholders, and neighbors have accurate information about who we are and what we do. We believe that open communication is essential to building trust—and we welcome dialogue rooted in truth and mutual respect.

Myth #1: SPIN is just a homeless shelter.

Fact: SPIN is a **comprehensive behavioral health organization** offering:

- Recovery and permanent supportive housing
- Mental health therapy (EMDR, DBT)
- Case management
- Disability advocacy
- In-home services
- Day-hab and IOP programs

Myth #2: People must be sober or mentally stable before receiving housing.

Fact: SPIN uses the **Housing First** model, which provides housing **without preconditions** like sobriety or treatment compliance. Housing is a **starting point for recovery**, not a reward.

Myth #3: SPIN only helps single men.

Fact: SPIN's **Seasonal Overnight Shelter (SOS)** serves **men, women, children, and unaccompanied minors** of all genders and ages.

Myth #4: SPIN refuses service to people who can't pay.

Fact: SPIN accepts **Medicaid** and provides services **regardless of ability to pay**.

Myth #5: SPIN is bringing homeless people into Silver City from other areas.

Fact: Most **SPIN's clients are from Grant County**. While they occasionally serve people from nearby towns like Deming or Lordsburg (which lack shelters), those individuals are **returned to their communities** once housing is secured.

Myth #6: SPIN steals or mismanages clients' money.

Fact: There is **no evidence or public record** of SPIN being involved in financial misconduct. SPIN provides **Representative Payee Services** under federal guidelines and is one of the few agencies in the United States that does not charge a fee for this service.

Myth #7: The SOS shelter is unsafe.

Fact: SPIN enforces **strict safety rules**: no violence, alcohol, drugs, or weapons are allowed. While some neighborhood concerns have been raised, these are **community-wide issues** related to broader systemic gaps in mental health and addiction services.

Myth #8: SPIN increases homelessness in Silver City.

Fact: SPIN does **not attract homelessness**—it **responds to it**. Local agencies estimate **120 households** in Grant County are actually unhoused. SPIN provides **stabilizing services** that reduce long-term homelessness.

Myth #9: SPIN has caused an increased use of first responder resources.

Fact: There is **no data supporting this claim**. In fact, **Housing First programs like SPIN's reduce emergency service use**, by providing **stable housing and case management**. The **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness** and studies published in journals like *American Journal of Public Health* have shown that Housing First programs lead to:

- Fewer emergency room visits
- Reduced hospitalizations
- Lower use of police and EMS services