



CFB Thriving Communities Grant 2021: \$1,395,609 in awards

Written by Alina Seronde, Clare Healy, and Nicole Calhoun

We are delighted to announce this year's Thriving Communities Grant awards, spanning our 5-country service area and totaling over \$1.3 million! Out of nearly 100 applications, 41 were selected for one-year project awards and 1 (Native American Advancement Foundation) was chosen for multi-year funding of \$198,000 over three years. A recent offering in our grants process, multi-year funding encourages deeper and more robust projects with a larger budget and funding term. This year's grant round saw more applications than ever before—doubling application submissions of recent years. These inspiring and diverse projects focus on food distribution; farm and food systems development; community-based mutual aid; affordable housing; mental health services; resources for immigrants, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) individuals, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), rural communities, and much more! Notably, 45% of awardees are collaborative projects involving two or more organizations or groups, highlighting how folks are increasingly joining forces to address immediate needs and work on long-term solutions to ending hunger and other systemic injustices. A summary of each project awarded can be found below.

**Note: The city and county listed next to the project name indicate the main location of the organization or group and do not necessarily reflect the project's reach. Some projects will have an impact within multiple counties in southern Arizona, and all projects contribute to collaborative progress made by CFB's network of partners.*

Apache Stronghold - \$20,000

Protecting Indigenous Land & Rights — San Carlos, Gila/Graham Counties

Funding will provide ongoing support and maintenance for the camp at Oak Flat, protecting the Apache tribe's sacred sites from mining development and environmental degradation. Funds will also be used to organize with other tribal communities across the state and county that are facing similar environmental and land protection struggles, travel costs to attend court hearings, and an ongoing public education campaign about Indigenous land protection and land rights.

Arivaca Coordinating Council/Human Resource Grp. Inc. - \$20,000

Ensuring Food Security – Walk-in Freezer Unit – Arivaca, Santa Cruz County

Funding will allow ACC/HRG to increase their perishable food storage capacity to meet the increased food demand by purchasing a walk-in freezer. This infrastructure improvement will enable them to better meet the food needs of the 1,368 rural households utilizing their services.

Beyond Dreams - \$60,000

In collaboration with the Cooperative Network of Tucson

Beyond Dreams – Tucson, Pima County

This project will support young people who have lived as undocumented U.S. residents since childhood—also known as “Dreamers”—with leadership, advocacy, and financial training. Beyond Dreams will work with multiple different community organizations to provide opportunities for Dreamer youth to develop community organizing skills and further engage in social justice work.

Blacklidge Community Collective - \$60,000

In collaboration with Tucson Mesh Network

Tucson Mesh Seed Project – Tucson, Pima County

This project will address the financial burden of home internet by providing low-cost and sliding scale internet through a geographically specific mesh network. BCC will focus this work in the Keeling, Ocotillo Oracle, and Barrio Blue Moon neighborhoods, where residents experience a particularly high need for low-cost reliable internet, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bootstraps to Share of Tucson dba BICAS - \$20,000

Community Tools and Work Trade – Tucson, Pima County

Funding will support the long-term Community Tools and Work Trade programs offered by this 32-year-old community bicycle recycling and education center. Expanding the capacity and accessibility of BICAS's programs will enable them to continue providing bikes and mechanical knowledge to the community, particularly to the community's unhoused neighbors and those for whom low/no-cost autonomous transportation can make all the difference.

Casa San Juan/St. John the Evangelist – \$60,000

In collaboration with Pima County Interfaith Program

Parish Identification Card for Immigrants – Tucson, Pima County

Funds will be utilized to create parish identification cards for undocumented community members. In addition to giving these community members an increased sense of security, the ID cards help facilitate other tasks necessary for economic and civic engagement, such as opening bank accounts. Parish ID cards can help prevent wrongful incarceration and separation of families while building trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement officers.

Church of Safe Injection – Tucson - \$20,000

Church of Safe Injection – Tucson delivery service of safe use supplies to prevent the development of abscesses and the spread of blood borne diseases – Tucson, Pima County

Funding will allow CoSIT to purchase and provide sustainable access to supplies needed to keep community members who use drugs safe. This program stocks and operates three syringe access programs in Tucson and will use funding to support both the stationary exchange and delivery service. In partnership with Sonoran Prevention Works, CoSIT will add HIV and HCV testing to their delivery services, further supporting the health of community members.

Cochise College - \$5,000

Cochise Cupboard Food Insecurity Initiative – Sierra Vista, Cochise County

Funding for this initiative will increase the capacity to serve college students experiencing food insecurity by expanding food pantry services to Cochise College's Sierra Vista Campus. They will increase the number of students served and awareness of government support programs, while launching food preparation and healthy eating educational campaigns on campus.

Common Ground Farm Collective, LLC - \$60,000

In collaboration with Southern Arizona Young Ranchers and Farmers Coalition (SAYFRC)

Buckelew Farm Incubator Project – Tucson, Pima County

Funding for the Buckelew Farm Incubator Project will support CGFC and SAYFRC with the infrastructure needed to create an operational cooperative farm accessible for new farmers to join. This project will increase the quantity of produce grown in the Tucson region and lower the barrier-to-entry for future farmers by providing access to land and a network of active and experienced farmers to collaborate with and learn alongside.

Desert Harvesters - \$60,000

In collaboration with Saguaro Harvest Camp

Rewilding Tastebuds and Neighborhoods: Nourishing Ourselves with Sonoran Desert Food Forest Landscapes – Tucson, Pima County

This project will increase access to native food knowledge and traditions – sustainable harvesting practices and use of native foods – through a new educational video series created in collaboration with Spanish and O’Odham language speakers. Funding will also increase DH’s ability to promote native tree planting, which improves access to shade and cooling, nutritious local foods, and nurtures a sense of belonging and connection to place. An updated version of the Desert Harvesters cookbook will also be produced and printed as part of the project.

First Southern Baptist Church - \$20,000

Clifton Morenci Food Bank—Duncan, Greenlee County

Funding for this project will enable FSBC to reopen the Clifton-Morenci Food Bank, which has been closed for several years. Reopening the Food Bank in Clifton will build community and increase access to healthy, culturally appropriate food for folks living in Greenlee County, where 68% of the population are SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligible.

Hands of a Friend (Manos Amigas) - \$5,572

Repair of porch overhang/posts – Green Valley, Pima County

Funds will be used for basic building repairs needed to ensure the safety of the people living on site. Hands of a Friend provides safety and housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties, as well as the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Healthy Bisbee, Inc. - \$13,150

Healthy Bisbee, Inc. – Bisbee, Cochise County

Funding will be used to purchase a commercial refrigerator and large freezer, enabling Healthy Bisbee to continue providing nutritious meals and fresh produce to the community.

KPMADMAN - \$60,000

In collaboration with Las Vistas Neighborhood Collaboration, We Grow AZ LLC, and What’s Cookin’ Inc.

Las Vistas Neighborhood Collaborative – Tucson, Pima County

Funding will support neighborhood efforts to build food security and sense of place through the development of a communal food pantry, edible garden, and green, shared community spaces. Additionally, knowledge will be shared through health and wellness workshops and translation and digitization of educational materials used by the group and the CFB Farm and Garden team.

Liberty Partnership Community Council DbA LPKNC - \$5,410

GenZ Votes! -- Tucson, Pima County

This project seeks to increase equity in Tucson’s Southside community and decrease disparate outcomes for BIPOC community members and low-income families through community action, organizing around voter registration, education, and sharing of resources.

Maranatha Pentecostal Ministries Inc. - \$20,000

Complete renovation of an up-to-date pantry facility – Douglas, Cochise County

Funding will provide building infrastructure improvements, including new electrical wiring, an AC unit, and supplies. As these improvements are made, MPM will continue drive-thru food distribution, prepare for reopening their soup kitchen next year, and work towards federal hunger-relief program eligibility requirements to better meet community needs.

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association - \$5,000

In collaboration with City of Tucson Planning & Development Services Department

Vecinos - Neighbors Engaging Neighbors – Tucson, Pima County

Funding from this grant will facilitate Menlo Park Neighborhood Association outreach through the Vecinos program, with the goal of greater neighborhood engagement and recruitment of younger residents, minority residents, and Spanish-speaking residents to join the Neighborhood Association. Vecinos will administer surveys, pass out flyers for neighborhood events, and make connections with neighbors. Together, the neighborhood will address issues like housing affordability and engage in the Neighborhood Plan process with the City of Tucson.

Mind, Body & Spirit Co-op - \$16,170

In collaboration with Wilcox Community Food Pantry

Butterfly Garden Club—Wilcox, Cochise County

This project will bring together single mothers of all ages and their children in a safe and supportive environment focused on group learning and support. Participants will learn about food production methods, and work together to grow food for distribution through the Willcox Community Food Pantry. Funds will also support infrastructure/equipment for service delivery at the Food Bank.

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona - \$20,000

Mobile Meals Special Diet Meal Delivery Program—Tucson, Pima County

Funding will aid MMoSA's overarching project goal of ensuring that low-income, homebound seniors and adults living with disabilities have access to nutritious and medically-tailored food, and can live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. In addition to food, meal delivery provides personal check-ins 5 days a week and helps link clients to other community resources.

Native American Advancement Foundation - \$198,000 over three years

In collaboration with Ali Chugk Community Council, Tohono O'odham Nation and GuVo District Council, Tohono O'odham Nation

O'odham Nenok: O'odham Children Speak, GuVo District, Tohono O'odham Nation—Tucson, Pima County

Funding will support the building of a preschool and holistic health family center with a learning kitchen and rainwater garden. The center will be the heart of early education, Tohono O'odham language, and indigenous health for the western region of T.O. Nation. Classes for preschoolers, K-12, and families in the Ali Chugk community of GuVo District will support multi-generational mental and physical health and focus on wellness and nutrition through hands-on lessons in the outdoor kitchen and food and medicinal gardens. Such courses will teach O'odham language, stories, traditional ecological knowledge based in himdag (cultural values), and indigenous health models.

New Pueblo Alliance for Housing Justice - \$57,580.00

In collaboration with Justice Movement Consulting and Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona

New Pueblo Alliance for Housing Justice's Reimagine Renting Campaign—Tucson, Pima County

This project of NPAHJ seeks to rapidly increase the stock of affordable housing in Tucson while working to reduce racial/ethnic inequalities in our housing and rental markets. Funding will support the development of bilingual online resources for property owners/landlords who want to contribute to affordable housing, monthly network convening events for collaboration between those working on affordable housing, and a free "Allyship in Ownership" online course.

No More Deaths/No Más Muertes - \$18,000

Stipends to strengthen BIPOC programming—Tucson, Pima County

Funding will support NMD's goal of making their volunteer process more equitable and attainable for members of the BIPOC community through access to funds that would allow them to take time away from work/home.

The ongoing work of No More Deaths/No Más Muertes depends on a strong network of local and out of state volunteers who organize, plan, support, and lead all aspects of NMD's projects, such as Desert Aid, Search and Rescue, and more.

Nogales Community Development - \$60,000

In collaboration with Mariposa Community Health Clinic, Santa Cruz County, and Localight

Phase II - Nogales Farmer's Market and Community Kitchen—Nogales, Santa Cruz County

Funding will allow for further development of a fully licensed community kitchen which will support the operational capacity of food-related small businesses to prepare products while meeting food safety and production standards. This project, working and sharing locations with the Nogales Mercado/Farmers' Market, seeks to revitalize longtime historical bonds to international trade and traditional cuisine through access to healthy, affordable foods for low-income families living in Nogales.

Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry - \$19,636

Growing Food Better –Safford, Graham County

Funds will be utilized to increase on-site food production to supplement the donated food supply and increase access to healthy food in Graham and Greenlee Counties. Funding will also support capacity-building and organizational sustainability through the development of fundraising and volunteer plans.

Paisanos Unidos - \$20,000

Paisanos Unidos: Mental Health during COVID—Tucson, Pima County

The immigrant community comprising Paisanos Unidos' membership has been especially hard hit with challenges and grief related to Covid-19. Funding will support two dozen workshops over the span of the year, providing community-centered education and access to tools for mental and physical wellness to the 60+ members of the Paisanos Unidos community group.

Pima County Community Land Trust - \$60,000

In collaboration with Cuadro LLC

Mi Casita: ADU Escuelita Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project will provide community-informed curriculum about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) including low-cost building plans and a how-to manual for building "Casitas." Targeted outreach and curriculum will promote additional affordable housing in the community and allow homeowners and small, local landlords to compete with large, predatory developers. The project will also engage stakeholders around planning, zoning, finance, construction, and property management to explore additional resources needed to develop affordable ADU housing.

Pima County Food Alliance - \$60,000

In collaboration with UA Food Systems Research Lab

Cultivating Equitable Food Policy in Pima County—Tucson, Pima County

This project will re-establish PCFA as Pima County's food policy council. In order to create a diverse, representative, and responsive council, PCFA will hire six community liaisons to engage local community members, organizations, farms, and food businesses to identify needs and priorities. This input will also inform a series of policy and research briefs, fact

sheets, and strategic planning documents—which will guide the council’s priorities for community education and civic engagement around food systems policies and issues.

Primavera Foundation, Inc. - \$20,000

Farmacias del Barrio—Tucson, Pima County

Funding for the Farmacias del Barrio project will support the construction and conversion of new and existing garden beds at the Tierra Anitas and Las Abuelitas community gardens. These beds will be used for medicinal plant gardens for barrio residents, and youth and women experiencing homelessness. This project will include the construction of an outdoor garden classroom and educational sessions about medicinal plants, tincture/tea making, healthy cooking demos, and decolonizing one’s diet.

Raíz Collective - \$20,000

Raíz Mental Health Collective—Tucson, Pima County

Funds will be utilized to increase access to mental health care in Tucson with specific outreach and intention to support LGBTQ+, BIPOC and houseless folks. The collective will create space for walk-in, sliding scale, in-person and telehealth counseling, as well as group therapy.

Scholarships A-Z - \$20,000

Undocumented Youth Empowerment Initiative – Tucson, Pima County

This project develops leadership infrastructure among immigrant youth while actively creating an ecosystem of support for their college and scholarship application processes, postgraduate career planning, and other professional advancements. An online hub of resources will be created, connecting students and educators while providing immigrant youth a pathway to attend school, pursue dignified work, and thrive.

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - \$20,000

Culturally Appropriate Food Program – Tucson, Pima County

Funding will allow SAAF to expand the capacity of its long-standing Food Pantry and Harvest program, increasing LGBTQ+ community members’ access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods.

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance - \$60,000

In collaboration with Local First Arizona and YWCA

Most Trans-Affirming Region by 2050 – Tucson, Pima County

This project will work to address social isolation, respond to housing insecurity, and prevent suicide in transgender and gender non-conforming BIPOC youth. The project will also develop and pilot a Trans Affirming Certification and Racial Bias Training among community partner organizations, supporting Southern Arizona in becoming the most trans-affirming region by 2050.

Southside Presbyterian Church/Southside Worker Center - \$60,000

In collaboration with Barrios Santa Rita Park-West Ochoa Association and YWCA

Nuestro Barrio Collaborative Project – Tucson, Pima County

This project will energize, mobilize, and empower residents of Barrio Santa Rita-West Ochoa through popular education, training, and leadership opportunities around advocacy, workforce development, and entrepreneurship. Some of the workshops offered will focus on: establishing an LLC; public speaking; community movement-building; financial literacy; creating a culture of listening and dialogue; and pricing transparency and negotiating with employers. The collective will also promote community-building through public forums and cultural events.

Splinter Art and Community Fund - \$5,000

Splinter Collective Free Store – Tucson, Pima County

Funds will supply this community-led, free store with basic hygiene items—clothing and other seasonal needs, harm reduction supplies, and foodstuffs—so they may be shared with both housed and unhoused community members, to humanize and build connections in the neighborhood between W. 2nd Street and Barrio Anita. The Free Store is also an important channel for disseminating printed materials about local resources and other media useful to neighborhood residents.

Sulphur Springs Valley Produce Cooperative - \$59,950

In collaboration with McNeal Elementary School and Double Adobe Elementary School

Farm to School: Increasing Student Nutrition in Rural Schools Through Collaborative Farming – McNeal, Cochise County

This project will improve nutrition in rural schools and tangibly strengthen our local food system by connecting students and their families with locally grown produce, giving students visibility into their regional food system through farm field trips and other learning opportunities. It will also provide cooperative farmers with shared equipment and collective marketing tools in order to exponentially increase food production and viability of farming in Southern Arizona.

The Outlaw Project - \$20,000

Trans Led Tiny Homes Project with Sustainable Food Access – Phoenix, Maricopa County

Nationally, trans people face a significant wage gap, with 15% earning \$10,000 or less annually, a statistic that places them well below the Federal poverty rate and impairs access to housing, food, and other necessities. This project, led by, and for trans folks, will support the development of several freestanding tiny homes in Tucson. The residential site will include a garden, an outdoor kitchen, and a communal meal and meeting area—increasing access to food and community support for BIPOC trans community members. In addition, the project will center organizing and advocacy to further improve conditions in the future.

Thompson House Tucson - \$5,000

Thompson House Tucson – Tucson, Pima County

As a component of the Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) Holistic Health Plan and its related housing services, Thompson House Tucson will provide anti-racist, trans-affirming therapy; holistic wellness services; and on-call crisis/case management to transgender and gender non-conforming BIPOC youth.

Tombstone Community Food Bank - \$16,641

Refrigeration System Replacement – Tombstone, Cochise County

Funds will be used to purchase a new refrigeration unit for the food bank's box truck, enhancing access to fresh foods for many folks who live in food-insecure areas of central Cochise County. In addition, the truck will be leveraged to support the efforts of other rural food pantries in the area that might benefit from its occasional use.

Tucson Food Share / Food Not Bombs - \$60,000

Tucson Food Share and Food Not Bombs Tucson – Tucson, Pima County

Funds will support operational improvements and expansion of services for this community-run, solidarity-based project, enabling its participants to address food insecurity in a dignified way through grocery delivery and the preparation of healthy meals for those experiencing housing and food insecurity.

W3AVING W3BS LLC - \$60,000

In collaboration with Sadie Shaw and Rooted Doula Collective

Destroy the Black Nightmare, Birth the Dream – Tucson, Pima County

This project strives to reduce Black maternal and infant mortality, reduce suicide rates for community members of all ages, and build an alternative to the school-to-prison pipeline through curriculum development, community-led workshops, and intergenerational learning spaces that bolster the mental and physical health of Black parents and children.

Whetstone Prison Project (University of Arizona) - \$60,000

In collaboration with Watershed Management Group

Whetstone Prison Project – Tucson, Pima County

This project will facilitate the de-stigmatization and reintegration of currently and previously incarcerated community members in Southern Arizona, while also stimulating community conversations around wider justice system reform. Its components include: the formation of a steering committee and supportive partner network that centers those with lived experience; dignified employment and mentorship opportunities featuring partnerships between current U of A students and justice-involved students; and Pima Reentry Center's hosting of a rotating calendar of volunteer opportunities, sustainability workshops, and other public events led by students who will have been trained by partner organizations.

World Ministries Outreach to Children Project - \$13,500

Outreach Center Improvement – Tucson, Pima County

Funds will be used to upgrade public bathroom facilities for this food pantry and community center, which provides many important social services for community members.