



CFB Thriving Communities Grant 2022 - 23: \$1,775,868 in awards!

Written by Clare Healy

The Partner Grants Team is thrilled to share that throughout our 5-county service area, the Thriving Communities Grant awarded 52 projects totaling over \$1.7 million! These diverse and inspiring projects focus on addressing a variety of community needs, including improvements to food distribution services; farm and food systems development; community-based mutual aid; youth and adult educational opportunities; rural community development, and more!

Notably, nearly 60% of awards are for 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.

Land Acknowledgement: We are gathering on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Tohono O’odham, Pascua Yaqui, Ak-Chin, Hohokam, Akimel O’odham, Hia-Ced O’odham, and many more who may call this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture – \$58,033

In collaboration with Pivot Produce

Wrap-Around Services, Local Produce and Dignity at the New Ajo Food Pantry – Ajo, Pima County

Funding supports the new Ajo Food Pantry in assisting between 3,000-4,000 people a month in Ajo, Why, Tohono O’odham Nation, and the surrounding region. The pantry is transitioning from mobile distribution to a walk-in, choice/shopping model, and is striving to incorporate access to locally grown fresh produce. Additionally, the project will pilot a case worker and workshop series to address the root causes of hunger in this area in order to build a diversified, inclusive, and equitable emergency food system in Western Pima County.

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

Ensuring Food Security - Equipment, Staff, and Food – Arivaca, Pima County

Funding supports multi-pronged food distribution through upgrades to necessary equipment for food safety and storage, hiring a part-time Kitchen Manager, and growing their hot meals program. The project seeks to provide nutritious options to the rural border communities of Arivaca, Arivaca Junction, and Sasabe.

Barrio Restoration – \$60,000

In collaboration with Barrios Unidos Land Trust

Barrio Restoration – Tucson, Pima County

A project by and for the community, funding supports the implementation of a year-long plan designed to build morale, awareness, community organizing, and care for shared spaces through land maintenance. Participants will come together in Southside Tucson neighborhoods through landscaping & traditional earthwork projects to cultivate a clean and safe environment with the aspiration of encouraging reinvestment in our barrios and culture.

Barrios Unidos Land Trust – \$60,000

In collaboration with L.I.B.R.E South Tucson LLC

L.I.B.R.E. (Leadership in our Barrio through Rooted Empowerment) – Tucson, Pima County

With the goal of growing and supporting the local business and art community, this project will restore a commercial building as a small business incubation space. The initiative seeks to defend against the effects of gentrification by providing affordable workspace, connections to resources, skills and leadership training, and mentorship for community-oriented businesses, entrepreneurs, educators, artists, activists, and organizers.

Beyond Dreams – \$20,000

In collaboration with the Tucson Cooperative Network

Beyond Dreams – Tucson, Pima County

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

Casa Maria Tucson – \$15,000

Tenant Law Reform Project – Tucson, Pima County

This project tackles a decades-old challenge that has collided with recent events to deepen the current housing crisis: a body of law that routinely favors corporate landlords at the expense of tenants in Arizona. With the goal of systemic law reform, this project focuses on getting lawyers and paralegals into the community to increase the dialogue between legal advocates and the communities they seek to help. This direct research will set the stage for a longer-term plan to advocate for tenants' rights in the court of law.

Centro Comunitario Los Nogales – \$20,000

Proyecto Comunitario “Mejorando las Comunidades” – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

With the overall goal of growing community participation in Nogales for the betterment of family life and society, Proyecto Comunitario provides personal development and skill-building opportunities for people of all ages through educational, recreational, and cultural workshops and programs that promote working together and cultural integration.

Clifton Social Club – \$20,000

Clifton Social Club -- Clifton, Greenlee County

Funding will support the renovation of a shared-use commercial kitchen that culinary entrepreneurs can utilize to produce food products, growing their businesses and the local food scene in this rural area. Clifton Social Club has a long history in the community, and building renovations will allow the space to once again serve as an important gathering place for social and community events.

Cochise Harm Reduction – \$50,000

In collaboration with The Quarry Bisbee

Linking Rural Harm Reduction and Food Access – Bisbee, Cochise County

This project seeks to create employment opportunities and increase meals for unhoused individuals and those living with substance abuse disorder in Cochise County. Funds will support positions for a Lead Food Coordinator, Peer Outreach Worker, and the delivery of bagged lunches to more remote, rural areas.

Common Ground Farm Collective – \$60,000

In collaboration with Luna de Sonora Farm and Tucson Food Share

Buckelew Incubator Farm Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project will further establish the Buckelew Incubator Farm, supporting beginning farmers through an onsite peer-network and shared use infrastructure and equipment to increase local food production and agricultural opportunities in Southern Arizona.

Community Care Tucson – \$60,000

In collaboration with After School Anarchy and Community on Wheels

Tucson Alliance for Mutual Aid: A Collaborative Vision for Community Care and Organizing in the Tucson Area—Tucson, Pima County

A collaboration between Community Care Tucson, Community on Wheels, and BIPOC youth-led After School Anarchy. This project works to better meet the needs of unhoused individuals in the downtown and South Tucson areas by providing roving, responsive community care in the form of hot meals, food, and supplies delivered directly to encampments and gathering places.

Community Gardens of Tucson – \$19,920

Building Community and Food Resiliency at the Barrio Blue Moon Community Garden – Tucson, Pima County

This project will encourage community building and improve food resiliency at Tucson House and in the Barrio Blue Moon Neighborhood. Funds will be used to hire a resident of Barrio Blue Moon as the Blue Moon Community Garden Site Coordinator and provide free growing space in their 60-plot garden in addition to offering educational programming.

Construyendo Circulos de Paz – \$60,000

In collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico-Nogales

Proyecto Cooperativa Entre Amigas – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

Utilizing the cooperative business model of shared ownership, this project weaves together entrepreneurial and social resources for a core group of women. Funds will support skill-building workshops for women and youth, practices that promote overall health, and community events focused on gastronomy and culture.

Desert Harvesters – \$20,000

In collaboration with the University of Arizona’s Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology

Rewilding Tastebuds and Neighborhoods 2023 – Tucson, Pima County

This project focuses on the expansion and distribution of educational materials such as the newest edition of the Desert Harvesters cookbook, *Eat Mesquite and More*, demonstration videos and downloadable guides for ethically harvesting and using native desert foods. Funding will support programming and program evaluation, as well as education and capacity building.

Desert View High School – \$15,000

The Desert View High School Food Production Expansion Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project intends to expand the existing food production areas at Desert View High School including the garden, fruit tree grove, aquaponics, chicken coop, greenhouse, and native plant area. Funds will support Garden Project Manager positions, and new equipment such as outdoor sinks, rainwater harvesting infrastructure, tools, plants, and other supplies.

Echoing Hope Ranch – \$19,989

A Twofold Strategy to Increasing Food Production in our Community – Hereford, Cochise County

Through vertical gardening, this project seeks to supply produce for local food distribution in Cochise County while expanding agricultural training offerings in their Group Supported Employment program for adults with autism and/or developmental disabilities.

Farm Education and Resource Network – \$59,300

In Collaboration with Arevalos Farm, Double Adobe Farm, Moonlighter Farm, SouthWinds Farm, and Westover Farm

Ensuring a Future for Small Farms: A Collaborative CSA Model – Tucson, Pima County

This project will establish and trial a multi-farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model that can be shared and replicated by farmers in other regions. In partnership with a local institution, the multi-farm CSA

model focuses on building a sustainable regional food system through farm collaboration paired with strong commitment from the community. A portion of CSA shares will be subsidized and made available at a lower cost for socially disadvantaged individuals and families.

Favor Celestial Community Economic Development Initiative – \$60,000

In collaboration with Tucson Community Land Trust

The Cultural and Environmental Preservation of Barrio Kroeger Lane – Tucson, Pima County

Funding will support the rehabilitation of a community garden and the installation of infrastructure to increase community green spaces in the Barrio Kroeger Lane neighborhood, located in the heart of Tucson's birthplace at the base of the Black Mountain. Additionally, the project seeks to purchase a historic, vacant home for development as a cultural museum, preserving the O'odham and Mexican American farm heritage that has defined the area for centuries.

Graham County Health Department – \$60,000

In collaboration with Duncan and Clifton Food Pantries, Our Neighbor's Farm & Pantry, St. Vincent De Paul Safford Food Pantry, and Southeast Arizona Health Education Center

Project Nourish/ Proyecto Nutrirse – Safford, Graham County

Community Health Workers (CHW's) provide trusted and informed connections to health and social services. This project will double the number of visits by CHW's to the Gila Valley, assisting several rural food pantries in providing a variety of resources in addition to food, such as healthcare and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment, connection to other social services, and more.

Healthy Bisbee, Inc. – \$20,000

Healthy Bisbee Inc – Bisbee, Cochise County

Healthy Bisbee provides food for low-income, home-bound, and older individuals, as well as those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Funding will help with the necessities to supply culturally appropriate hot meals, nonperishable groceries, produce, and pantry staples.

Las Vistas Neighborhood Collaborative – \$10,000

In collaboration with Utterback Middle School and Tucson Clean and Beautiful

Las Vistas Neighborhood Collaborative—Tucson, Pima County

This collaborative seeks to build food security within the Las Vistas/Western Hills neighborhood through a communal food pantry, educational workshops, an aquaponics garden, and shared community spaces to build relationships and sense of ownership in the neighborhood.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras – \$37,000

In collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (Tucson)

Case Management and Support for LGBTQI+ People – Tucson, Pima County

This project supports Mariposas Sin Fronteras' work to provide stable resources for LGBTQI+ migrants recently released from immigration detention centers in the southwest US/Mexico border region, as well as

those living in the Tucson area. The collaborative project will provide legal services and technical support and assistance to establish a set of case management procedures.

Merchant's Garden – \$20,000

Access of Leafy Greens to EBT Users in Arizona –Tucson, Pima County

This project seeks to increase both value-added opportunities for growers and access of local produce to people using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Funding will support the creation of a shared-use washing, cutting, weighing, and packaging station for local produce, as well as a local food awareness and benefits campaign.

MicroCare Community Development Solutions – \$20,000

Women Entrepreneurs' Financial and Technical Assistance Project –Tucson, Pima County

The focus of this project is to establish a no-cost program to aid 20 women entrepreneurs through individual coaching sessions and group education, teaching financial and digital literacy, business plan development, and networking solutions. Funding will support the implementation of 12 personalized technical assistance counseling sessions and 12 group workshops.

Mind, Body & Spirit Co-op – \$20,000

In collaboration with the Willcox Community Food Pantry

The Mesquite Patch Community Garden –Willcox, Cochise County

Funds will support the development and implementation of community gardens in the Willcox area with the Gardens to Go outreach program, which brings free seeds, seedlings, soil, compost, amendments and growing containers to member homes. The existing community garden will also provide eggs, herbs, and vegetables to the Willcox Community Food Pantry.

Native Seeds/SEARCH – \$20,000

Southern Arizona Seed Share –Tucson, Pima County

The Southern Arizona Seed Share project addresses the needs of food insecure communities of Southern Arizona by providing access to culturally relevant heirloom seeds to current and future household gardeners. The project will increase free seed access for Indigenous-identifying people in Southern Arizona, including the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O’odham Nations, by providing targeted outreach in diverse languages, mediums and methods, and by requesting participant feedback on how to continue to improve access to these seeds.

NBA Tucson Housing Inc. DBA Estes Gardens – \$18,500

Estes Gardens Community Building –Tucson, Pima County

Engaging residents in a low-income senior living community, this project provides onsite gardening and culinary opportunities. Funding will support irrigation and full planting within 5 raised garden beds—resulting in a larger harvest—and a kitchen remodel, providing needed kitchen appliances for cooking demonstrations and making nutritious meals from the garden harvest.

ORO House – \$60,000

In collaboration with Flowers and Bullets, Las Milpitas Community Farm, and The Seed Library

BIPOC Seed Saving and Produce Processing Education—Tucson, Pima County

This project focuses on food security by providing BIPOC communities with the skills and basic equipment to both harvest seeds and properly process produce and grains from desert-adapted plants from their own backyard and community gardens. Funding will support train-the-trainer style workdays, 12 educational workshops, and seed-saving infrastructure at the Midtown Farm and Las Milpitas.

OS3 Movement – \$60,000

In collaboration with We Love Nogales

Border Youth on Bikes & Podcast – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

This project seeks to give voice to youth leaders as peer promoters of physical and mental health through fun outdoor activities that support a happier, healthier, more active lifestyle. Funding will be used to promote and engage youth in cycling events and to produce a podcast where teens share their experiences with the benefits of physical activity.

Paisanos Unidos – \$40,000

In collaboration with the Language Justice Collective, Power Mobile Homes, and School of Human Rights

Academia de Promotores de Liderazgo Comunitario –Tucson, Pima County

Paisanos Unidos is a 60-member community leadership development group led by and for immigrants. Funding will support several capacity-building workshops over the span of the year, providing community-centered education and access to tools for mental and physical wellness, immigrant rights, social justice, and advocacy.

Raiz Collective – \$20,000

Raiz Collective –Tucson, Pima County

The Raiz Collective provides community-centered, accessible mental health and healing support for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ folks in Pima County. Funding will support a diverse array of services including sliding scale therapy and peer support sessions, a walk-in and digital 24/7 crisis support center, and somatic therapy.

Santa Cruz Lutheran Church – \$5,000

Additional Food Pantry Needs—Tucson, Pima County

This grant will supplement necessities identified by the church pantry guests that are not available through Food Bank allocations. Funding will support the procurement of items such as feminine products, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper.

ScholarshipsA-Z – \$60,000

In collaboration with Protection Network Action Fund (Pronet)

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 expanded, connecting students and educators across southern Arizona while providing immigrant youth a pathway to attend school, pursue dignified work, and thrive.

Sierra Vista Dream Center – \$36,561

In collaboration with the Arizona Achievers Foundation, Carondelet Dental, Deltas of Southern Arizona, and Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona

Health Is Wealth Mobile Unit Project—Sierra Vista, Cochise County

This mobile health clinic initiative seeks to ensure that more people who may not otherwise have access to potentially life-saving care receive both diagnostic and primary healthcare. Mobile events will be focused on locations that have a rate of 70% or higher free lunch program utilization, and include stops in Tucson, Sierra Vista, and on the Pascua Yaqui Nation.

Sister Jose Women's Center – \$20,000

Impact Project for Especially Vulnerable Women Experiencing Homelessness—Tucson, Pima County

Funding will assist in increasing shelter capacity by 25% as well as growing organizational capacity to provide intensive case management and stability for women impacted by trauma, discrimination, marginalization, and homelessness. Through a trust-based and low-barrier system, Sister Jose's seeks to create equitable pathways to secure housing.

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance – \$35,000

In collaboration with Pride Law at the University of Arizona

Most Trans Affirming Region by 2050—Tucson, Pima County

The work of SAGA seeks to uplift gender euphoria, create a safe and affirming culture, and help empower transgender and gender non-conforming BIPOC artists. Funds will support care-intensive focus groups, staff capacity and development, gender-affirming supplies, and stipends for legal name changes.

Splinter Art and Community Fund – \$20,000

Real Rent Cukson Research and Development—Tucson, Pima County

This indigenous-led project will research proven strategies for building programs that support stable housing, redistribution of resources, and sovereignty for indigenous communities. Funds will support travel to interview, learn from, and build relationships with tribal communities and leaders with the goal of launching a Voluntary Land Tax or other wealth redistribution model in Southern Arizona.

Splinter Art and Community Fund – \$60,000

In collaboration with the Eviction Defense Coalition

Estevan Park Community Partnership—Tucson, Pima County

This project is an innovative pilot program testing a community partnership model in the monitoring and maintenance of Estevan Park. Funds support hiring park monitors to clean and stock park bathrooms so they remain open and available for all, and the project aims to reduce the frequency of visits and calls to the city and law enforcement. The program hires and consults houseless neighbors living outdoors near the park, and also communicates directly with Housing and Community Development office, and the surrounding neighborhood.

Survival School at the White Clay Ranch – \$60,000

In collaboration with Jobs With Justice and Just Jonah Sustainable Food System Engineering

Survival School at the White Clay Ranch—Tucson, Pima County

The Survival School is an Indigenous-led project that aims to revive and preserve Hia Ced and Tohono O’odham culture. The school will be a space for learning how to connect with and survive on the land while creating pathways for O’odham traditions and language to be passed on to the next generations living in surrounding communities. The project also involves increasing food security and climate resilience for these communities through dry farming, food distribution, and providing space for ceremonial practices.

SUSD 12 Teenage Parent Program – \$20,000

The Garden Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project is stewarded by Sunnyside High School’s Eco-Action Team of students and educators. Their low-barrier program is expanding to ensure the physical and organizational sustainability of the school garden, by increasing the garden space and education taking place in it, and building partnerships with other schools, organizations, and businesses.

The Homing Project – \$60,000

In collaboration with Catalytic Health Partners, Tank’s Green Stuff, and The Monterey Water Co.

The Homing Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project will provide stable individual long-term transitional housing to homeless survivors of domestic violence, prioritizing those under 25 years of age and those over 50 years old. Entry criteria will be low barrier and there will be no time limit to occupancy; instead exit will be triggered by permanent housing placement. Through Catalytic Health Partners a full range of support services will be provided including job-related assessment, training, and placement.

The Outlaw Project – \$60,000

In collaboration with SWAF-Tucson

Trans Led Tiny Homes Project with sustainable food access—Tucson, Pima County

With sustainable food access, this project will provide a solution to the housing and food insecurity faced by the most vulnerable sectors of the trans community, including BIPOC members with experience of sex work,

homelessness, and hunger. Funding will support a pilot housing initiative in Tucson, low water use garden, access to an outdoor kitchen, collective meals, 24/7 food access, communal spaces, and opportunities to receive training and get involved in human rights advocacy and communications strategies.

Tombstone Community Food Bank – \$4,500

Embracing 2023—Tombstone, Cochise County

Funds will support a much-needed computer upgrade, allowing Tombstone Community Food Bank to offer fast, reliable, and uninterrupted services to the community.

Tucson Alliance for Housing Justice – \$20,000

Tucson Alliance for Housing Justice (ongoing support) & Manufactured Housing Justice Campaign—Tucson, Pima County

The Tucson Alliance for Housing Justice convenes local organizations and individuals (housed and unhoused) and provides research, strategic planning, and power mapping to make a larger collective impact on the affordable housing crisis. The Manufactured Housing Justice Campaign works to empower residents of mobile home parks and manufactured housing communities to reduce the displacement of these residents and to surmount barriers to the broader use of manufactured housing.

Tucson Food Share / Food Not Bombs – \$10,000

Tucson Food Share & Food Not Bombs—Tucson, Pima County

Tucson Food Share and Food Not Bombs Tucson collaboratively address food insecurity in Tucson by serving two populations: households in need of groceries and people experiencing houselessness and housing insecurity in need of healthy prepared foods.

Tucson for Everyone – \$60,000

In collaboration with Amplifying Voices, Justice Movement, and The FEEL Art Collective

Housing Justice Education Project—Tucson, Pima County

This project activates people in southern Arizona to be drivers of housing justice by building the collective power and capacity of community members and organizers directly impacted by the affordable housing crisis. Funding will support housing injustice awareness and solutions, leadership and capacity-building workshops, and initiatives for Indigenous-led land justice.

Tucson Jewish Free Loan – \$20,000

Loss Protection for Higher Risk Interest-Free Loans—Tucson, Pima County

This project helps borrowers recover from temporary setbacks in a dignified way, without taking on debilitating debt. Funding will support interest-free loans to help people avoid eviction, pay off high-interest debt, cover unexpected expenses, and more.

Tucson Language Justice Collective – \$16,000

Language Justice Accessibility Project—Tucson, Pima County

This grassroots group is dedicated to facilitating a multi-lingual society by eliminating language barriers and building community. Funding will go towards remote and in-person interpretation, as well as interpretation skills improvement classes for collective members and workshops for the Earlham Border Studies Program and Paisanos Unidos.

Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund – \$20,000

Dreaming Abolitionist Futures Workshop Series—Tucson, Pima County

The goal of this 4-part workshop series is to bring a cross-section of activists, directly impacted folks, and other allies together in a safe and mindful space where folks can work to dismantle punishment culture and tap into their creativity to generate community-centered alternatives to the carceral system.

W3AVING W3BS LLC – \$60,000

In collaboration with Rooted Doula Collective

Birth the Black Dream—Tucson, Pima County

W3aving Webs 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.

Willcox Community Food Pantry – \$12,064

Food Preparation & Infrastructure—Willcox, Cochise County

This project will increase the ability of families to prepare hot, home-cooked meals in their residences by providing propane stoves, electric skillets, and crockpots. Additionally, funding will support the leveling of the delivery area at the pantry to allow for the safe use of forklifts, vehicles, carts, and hand trucks to improve the food receiving and distribution process.

Word of Mouth Print Space – \$14,000

Word of Mouth Print Space—Tucson, Pima County

This volunteer-run mutual aid organization is dedicated to making the skills and tools of visual art production accessible, especially to marginalized communities. They provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to build skills, grow community, and utilize art resources at low or no cost. Funds will support a mobile printing station for meeting the community where they are, workshops, and art fellowships.