

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT 2025 AWARDS

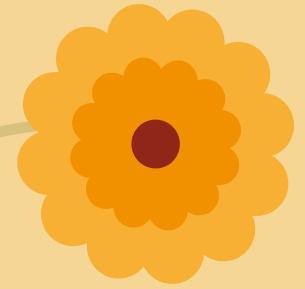
Supporting organizations, collectives, and mutual aid groups in addressing various aspects of food security, community health, social justice, and the root causes of hunger.



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



\$807,000 in awards!



The Community Food Bank is thrilled to share that throughout our 5-county service area, the **Thriving Communities Grant** awarded 24 projects totaling over \$807,000. These diverse and inspiring projects focus on addressing a variety of community needs, including:

- Strengthening the local food system
- Providing community education related to health, access to services, growing food, nutrition, job training, economic opportunities, and/or cultural preservation of historically underinvested communities
- Supporting emergency food distribution efforts such as infrastructure improvements, organizational capacity building, and improved and dignified service delivery

Notably, over 62% 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.

Arizona Border Alliance

\$50,000

In collaboration with Blueberry Cafe, Catholic Community Services/House of Hope, and Startup Unidos

Growing Hope – Douglas, Cochise County

This collaboration will establish a farm to table and workforce development program at the House of Hope Woman's Shelter in Douglas, AZ. The project includes education on growing and cooking with local fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Participants will also receive entrepreneurial support and the opportunity to sell fresh produce or other food items through the creation of a small business.

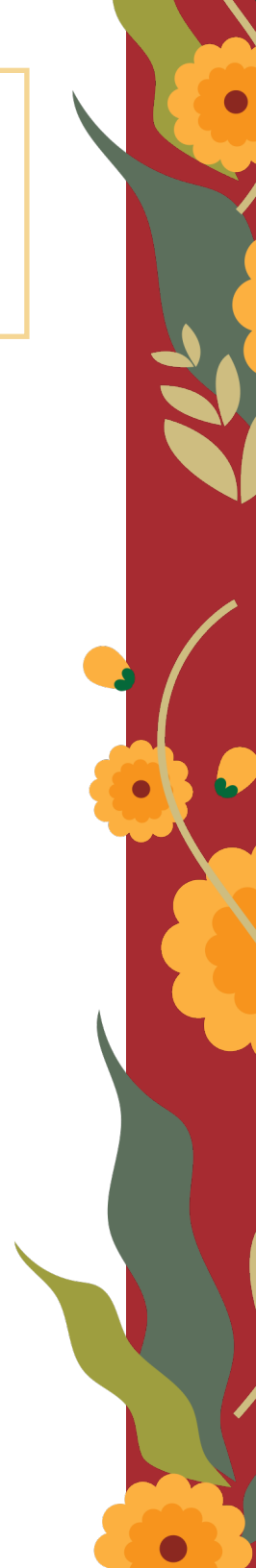
Arizona Homemade Artisans

dba Sonoran Permaculture

\$5,000

Planting the Seeds of Permaculture – Tucson, Pima County

This project builds on 30 years of community-oriented permaculture education and seeks to increase knowledge and investment in Sonoran permaculture for our local food system and the next generation. Funds will support scholarships for permaculture training, creation of additional workshops, and recruitment of practitioners and students in languages other than English.





BorderLinks

\$50,000

In collaboration with Sierra Club Borderlands and Xajun Ulew Indigenous Council

Indigenous Roots and Popular Education: Building Food Systems Beyond Borders for a Resilient Future – Tucson, Pima County

This project emerged following a collaborative effort to identify community needs and will revitalize BorderLinks' garden and outdoor area. The construction will include a community garden, outdoor kitchen, meeting space, and renewal of rainwater harvesting infrastructure. The space will host a series of community events and workshops on topics of climate change, agriculture, indigenous and migrant food traditions, and water harvesting.

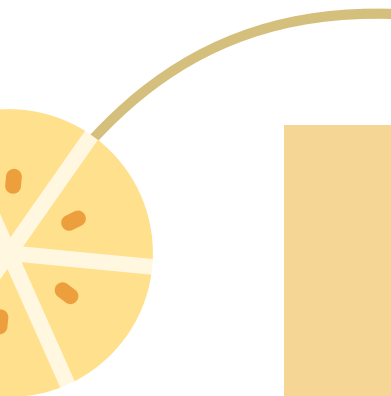
Centro Comunitario Los Nogales

\$30,000

In collaboration with Grupo Semillas

Empowering Vulnerable Communities: Education and Resources for a Better Future – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

With the overall goal of growing community participation and cultural integration in Nogales, Centro Comunitario provides personal development and skill-building opportunities for people of all ages. Funding supports educational, recreational, and cultural workshops and programs on topics such as growing food, wellness and nutrition, English language acquisition, and finance and entrepreneurship.



Cochise Harm Reduction

\$50,000

In collaboration with Echoing Hope Ranch

Linking Mobile Harm Reduction & Food Services in Rural Arizona – Bisbee, Cochise County

This collaboration merges local food access with emergency food distribution in a rural area. Funds will help increase the capacity of a mobile food pantry and meals-on-wheels operation throughout Cochise County and build capacity for on-site food donation and distribution in Bisbee.

Community Gardens of Tucson

\$10,400

Community Gardens of Tucson: Expanding Leadership and Support through Community Engagement – Tucson, Pima County

This project continues the development of deep community work towards sustainable community gardens in low-income neighborhoods. Funding will uplift efforts to solidify systems for community leadership, engagement, and education, all of which will support current gardens and provide opportunities to expand to more communities.

Dunbar Coalition

\$49,000

In collaboration with Boys to Men Tucson

Roots of Resilience: Cultivating Healing and Heritage for Tucson's African American Community – Tucson, Pima County

The “Roots of Resilience” initiative will transform an underutilized garden space at the Dunbar Pavilion into a therapeutic and educational environment. This project will serve as a sanctuary for black youth to process trauma and reconnect with their cultural heritage through the cultivation of traditional African American crops. In collaboration with Boys to Men Tucson, the garden will offer mentorship programs that promote healing, resilience, and community engagement.





Felicia's Farm

\$20,000

Felicia's Farm: Farm to Lives – Tucson, Pima County

This project supports Felicia's Farm in producing and harvesting more organically grown produce and fresh eggs to feed people in need through several nonprofit partners in Tucson. Funds will be utilized for purchasing tools for planting and harvesting, and chicken coop infrastructure.



Greater Vail Community Resources

\$2,356

Improving Food Bank Efficiency and Safety – Vail, Pima County

Funding aims to enhance food bank efficiency by equipping volunteers with cellular-enabled iPads to streamline the intake process at their drive through food distribution, thus improving the experience of those they serve.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network

\$38,800

In collaboration with Pima Community College Refugee Education Program and ARC Food Pantry

Feeding Student Success Project for Refugee English Language Learners – Tucson, Pima County

This project will integrate English language acquisition, place-based community education, capacity-building for food distribution, and local, culturally relevant food. Through Iskashitaa's food network, 4,500lbs of fresh local food will be distributed to 1,800 beneficiaries involved with the collaborating organizations. Additionally, teachers will build curriculum inspired by and complementary with planned agricultural field trips.

Kindred Connections Collective

\$50,000

In collaboration with PUES Collective

Seeds of Wellness (SOW) 2025 – Tucson, Pima County

This collaboration centers community education and food security for LGBTQ+ people of color who are 25 years or older. Funds seek to support a 50% increase in participants growing their own food at an existing garden plot, the establishment of an additional shared gardening space, and hosting events such as communal, local meals which bring folks together in meaningful and supportive ways.



M&M Family Orchard \$50,000

In collaboration with OS3 Movement and Santa Cruz County Public Media

Cultivating Knowledge:
A podcast and program on
food, farming and fitness
– Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County

This collaboration has a holistic focus on community health and education through growing food at the first community garden in Rio Rico, providing nutrition and cooking workshops, and integrating physical activity such as cycling and animal care for wellness. The project will be advertised and chronicled through public media podcasts that will celebrate and increase access to these community education opportunities.



Native American Advancement Foundation

\$20,000

NAAF Mobile Pantry – GuVo District, Tohono O’odham Nation

With a focus on enhancing rural community food access and health, funding will help expand NAAF’s free community food pantry by introducing a refrigerated mobile unit. Deliveries will provide fresh produce and healthy food options to all four GuVo villages and into neighboring Tohono O’odham Districts.

Pima County Food Alliance

\$49,500

In collaboration with the University of Arizona Food Systems Research Lab

Cultivating Local Food Engagement, Education, and Action through the Pima County Food Alliance – Tucson, Pima County

After completing a community assessment of local food system priorities and an intentional process of organizational restructuring, this collaboration will put community priorities into action through recruitment, working groups, public events, media outreach, and administrative support. Community-defined priority areas include increasing local food access, developing equitable policy and advocacy, encouraging safe and healthy foods, supporting accessible water rates for farmers, and creating educational community events.

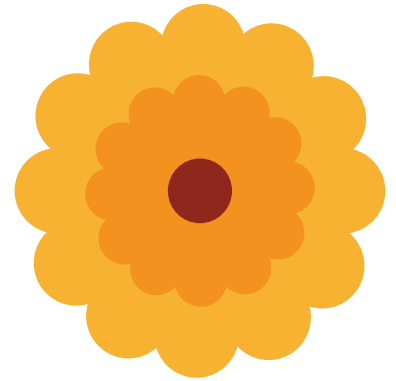


Santa Cruz Council on Aging

\$5,000

SCCOA Thriving Community Grant – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

For over 50 years the Santa Cruz Council on Aging has promoted education, engagement, socialization, food, and other essential resources for seniors. Funds will support transportation for otherwise homebound seniors to be safely and reliably connected with these services and their peers.



Sew and Move Forward (Coser y Avanzar)

\$5,000

Taking advantage of the resources of my home (Aprovechando los recursos de mi hogar) – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

Born from community request, this Spanish-led project embodies community education, intergenerational socialization/integration, and economic opportunity. Funds will support workshops on sewing and culturally-relevant weavings skills such that participants—from adolescents to seniors—learn to repair and create with the potential to increase their income along with their skill set.



Sharing Opportunity with Infrastructure and Land (SOIL) \$50,000

In collaboration with Luna de Sonora Farm, Oro House, and Sonoran Biosystems

Sharing Opportunities with Infrastructure and Land – Three Points, Pima County

This project will build on SOIL Farm Project's efforts to support beginning farmers through access to affordable land, water, shared infrastructure, and farm equipment. The collaborative effort lowers barriers to entry for beginning farmers of all backgrounds and provides opportunities for more members of the community to grow food for southern Arizona. Funds will go towards finishing construction of a high tunnel, upgrading produce processing and planting equipment, and providing coordinator support and startup funds for new farmers.





Sketching the Senses

\$50,000

In collaboration with Children's Peace Garden/Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, Las Milpitas Community Farm, ORO House, Tucson Language Justice Collective, and Valencia Library/ Pima County Seed Library.

Sketching the Senses – Tucson, Pima County

This collaboration will bring together diverse, multigenerational, and traditionally underinvested communities around a shared purpose: to focus attention on the beauty, diversity, food, and possibilities of the Sonoran Desert. This immersive community education project expands workshops into rural Pima County and provides locally grown plants and food to expand communities' connection with their environments through art, shared meals, knowledge, experiences, and each other.





South Tucson Community Outreach **\$50,000**

In collaboration with Galería Mitotera and South Tucson Housing Authority

Launching South Tucson's Only Food Pantry/Community Space – South Tucson, Pima County

This collaboration aims to address food insecurity, social isolation, and accessible resources for residents of South Tucson. Funds will help create a community pantry and recreational/educational space, as requested by residents of South Tucson Housing Authority. Capacity will be built through the acquisition of pantry infrastructure and equipment, a vehicle, and staffing support.

Southern Arizona Young Farmers and Ranchers Coalition **\$49,990**

In collaboration with Local First Arizona and Pima County Food Alliance

SAYFRC Farmer/Rancher Regional Strategy Development Program – Tucson, Pima County

This collaboration will convene farmer-led strategic planning to build a more sustainable regional food system. This includes coordinating work sessions for agricultural producers, developing a regional food system strategy and report, applying for additional grants, and implementing a micro-grant program for local producers.



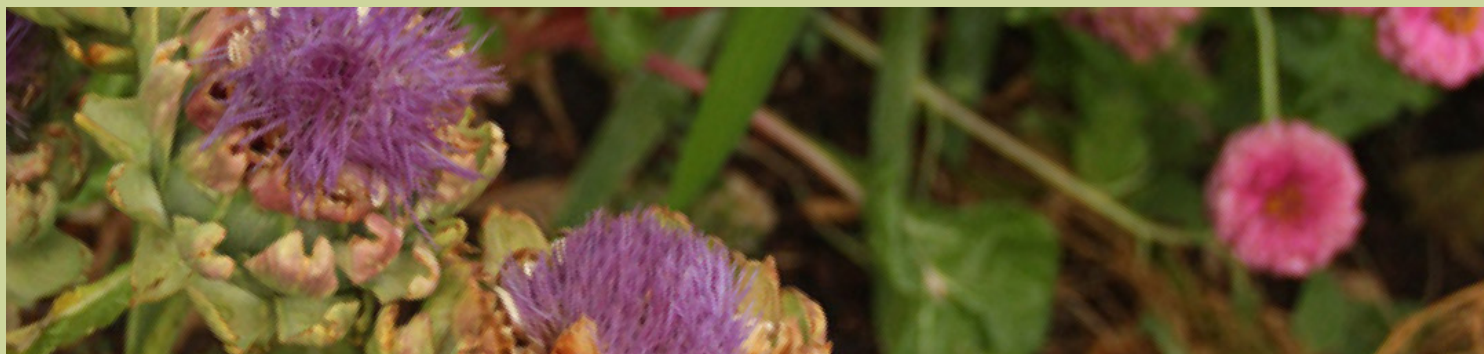
Step Up to Justice

\$8,000



RENT Project – Tucson, Pima County

In an effort to prevent legal housing emergencies that most affect low-income community members, Step Up to Justice’s bilingual community education workshops will inform attendees about their rights and responsibilities under the Arizona Landlord Tenant Act. The workshops will be held by an attorney who can also provide participants with an opportunity to apply for free legal assistance should they need it.



The Local Co-op

\$50,000

In collaboration with Bonita Valley Farm & Ranch, Desert Sky Produce, Likha’s Veggies, Ravina Arizona, and Sky Island Mushrooms

Farm To School in Cochise County - A Cooperative Approach – McNeal, Cochise County

Strengthening local food access for children and economic opportunities for farmers, this project aims to create a successful county-wide Farm to School program across Cochise County. This farmer-led initiative will work to build a rural Farm to School program that delivers fresh, nutritious food for eventually all 10,000 students across 20 school districts in the county.

Tucson Alliance for Housing Justice

\$50,000

In collaboration with Poder Casas Móviles

Mobile Home Park Eviction Prevention and Food Security Project – Tucson, Pima County

This collaboration aims to improve housing and food security for Pima County mobile home park residents who may be particularly vulnerable to eviction. The project will provide bilingual Spanish/English community education, with outreach and support in navigating available services to prevent eviction. The collaboration will provide limited scope legal information and advice through certified Housing Stability Legal Advocates and will distribute emergency housing grants to keep people housed.

Tucson Language Justice Collective

\$18,500

Tucson Language Justice Collective (Tucson LJC), Growing Language Justice – Tucson, Pima County

This project supports accessibility, community knowledge and connection-building through interpretation services, translation services, and education for grassroots, nonprofit and other community organizations engaging in multilingual work. Funds will help build capacity through educational stipends for new and existing interpreters and the creation of additional community education workshops.

