

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT 2026 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.

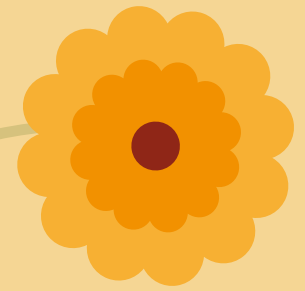


COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF IMPACT



\$490,897 in awards!



The Community Food Bank is excited to share that throughout our 5-county service area, the **Thriving Communities Grant** awarded 15 projects totaling \$490,897. 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, food production, and nutrition
- Supporting emergency food distribution efforts such as infrastructure improvements, capacity building, and dignified service delivery

Notably, nearly half 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 the Community Food Bank'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 \$20,000

Kaji Kai “Seed House” – Ajo, Pima County

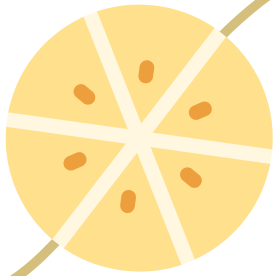
Ajo Community Supported Agriculture (AjoCSA), in the Sells District of the Tohono O'odham (TO) Nation, serves as both a learning space and seed resource hub, with access to traditional O'odham seeds, crops, and hands-on agricultural training. Funds will support acquiring gardening supplies, hosting community workshops, providing garden starter kits for families, and offering technical assistance to new growers within the TO Nation and surrounding border communities.

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

Arivaca Volunteer Empowerment Project – Arivaca, Pima County

Arivaca Coordinating Council/Human Resource Group serves 20% of the rural community through mobile meals, food boxes, and managing a local park, historic site, and thrift store. Funds will support capacity-building and sustainability by hiring a dedicated volunteer coordinator who will enhance volunteer recruitment, onboarding, and recognition efforts.





Community Care Tucson

\$15,903

Strengthening the Foundation of Community Care in Tucson – Pima County

Community Care Tucson is a mutual aid group providing responsive support, including hot meals, medical care, and supplies for surviving extreme weather to those living unhoused, to hundreds of community members since 2020. CCT has grown rapidly recently – doubling their attendance and volunteer base. Funds will help build capacity by upgrading and adding to their equipment and infrastructure, assisting with incubating additional distribution sites and training others on the mutual aid distribution model, and strengthening fundraising and volunteer recruitment.



Coser y Avanzar

\$20,000

Preservation and Conservation of Food – Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County

Coser y Avanzar seeks to help people spend less on food, make the most of the food they have, reduce waste, and preserve food in numerous ways. Funds will support education workshops throughout Santa Cruz County, engaging 150 beneficiaries with practical and cultural knowledge to preserve food through dehydration, safe packaging, efficient storage, and ancestral preservation methods.

Additionally, they plan to create a bilingual guidebook to accompany their lessons and expand their reach.



Dragonfly Community Alliance

\$20,000

Mission in the Valley – San Simon, Cochise County

Dragonfly Community Alliance acts as a resource hub for the San Simon Valley, providing food boxes, meals, educational workshops, and community gathering space. Funds will support the installation of a greenhouse and garden workshops at their site in Bowie, and the retrofitting of a commercial food trailer to host cooking demonstrations and community meals across the San Simon Valley.

First American Resources and Services

\$50,000

In collaboration with Portable Practical Educational Preparation

Arivaca Community Gardens Project – Arivaca, Pima County

Arivaca Community Gardens is a certified organic, community-led food security program dedicated to sustainably growing produce for the Arivaca area for the past 35 years. The garden produces 16,000 pounds of produce annually, half of which is donated to the Arivaca community, and half of which is sold at local farmers' markets. The garden recently lost all funding it previously relied on from the US Department of Labor. Funds will support crucial operations to preserve the garden and its role in food security in this area of rural Pima County.

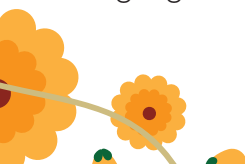
Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)

\$50,000

In collaboration with Tucson Refugee Ministries

A Collaborative Initiative to Address both Immediate and Long-Term Refugee Food Security – Tucson, Pima County

Iskashitaa Refugee Network and Tucson Refugee Ministries both provide critical and diverse services to thousands of refugee community members. Funds will support distribution of 75,000 pounds of harvested and rescued food, and refugee programs promoting job readiness, financial stability, English language learning/practice, and social networking.





Kinder Village

\$50,000

In collaboration with Horny Toad Horticulture and Artifact Video Production

Phase 1: The Magic Gardens – Tucson, Pima County

The Magic Gardens is a vibrant micro-farm in Central Tucson featuring organic soil-based and aquaponic gardens that nurture both people and the planet. Funds will support garden infrastructure and education for hands-on experience growing food, with collaboration between non-speaking and non-reliably speaking autistic individuals and the broader community.

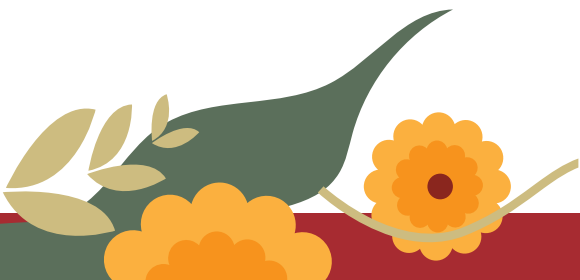
M&M Family Orchard

\$50,000

In collaboration with Public Safety Global Alliance & Firefighters, and Amado Youth Center

Harvest of Heroes – Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County

Harvest of Heroes brings together partners in a unified county-wide effort to cultivate healthier, more resilient communities with greater access to a variety of food resources. Funds will support programming for youth learning how to plant and cultivate food crops and care for farm animals.





Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

\$5,000

Improved Food Distribution Capacity – Tucson, Pima County

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors is the food ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which serves meals to about 150 seniors weekly. Funds will support replacement of a failing commercial refrigerator, to ensure continued safe and efficient food access to the community.



ORO House

\$49,994.28

In collaboration with SOIL Farm Project, Luna de Sonora, and Sonoran Biosystems, LLC

Three Points, AZ - Roadside Farm Stand – Three Points, Pima County

ORO House is a local grower specializing in regenerative, native, and heat-tolerant produce at the SOIL Farm Project, housed at the old Buckelew Farm. Out of request from the community and with the goal of combatting the lack of fresh food available around Three Points, ORO House will establish a mobile, roadside farm stand. Funds will support farm stand infrastructure, supplies, and staffing.



Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center

\$50,000

In collaboration with Graham County Health Department, Gila Valley Food Coalition, and Eastern Arizona College- Monster Exchange Pantry

Project Nourish – Nogales, Santa Cruz County

Project Nourish aims to build cross-generational connections that improve rural health outcomes by collaborating with local school and food pantries in Graham and Greenlee Counties through a Community Health Worker (CHW) led program. Funds will support bilingual nutrition education, cooking workshops, wellness activities, and resource navigation for 600 community members

South Tucson Community Outreach

\$50,000

In collaboration with Galeria Mitotera and South Tucson Housing Authority

Strengthening and Sustaining Food Security in South Tucson – Pima County

South Tucson Community Outreach seeks to increase food security in the City of South Tucson and on the south side of Tucson. Serving over 300 beneficiaries, with special focus on seniors and people living with disabilities, they deliver food boxes and provide educational programming at their partner pantry space. Funds will support infrastructure and equipment upgrades for greater capacity and sustainability.

The Tucson Family Food Project

\$20,000

The Tucson Family Food Project Meal Kit Program – Tucson, Pima County

The Tucson Family Food Project provides direct aid, life skills development, and education in cooking and nutrition to children and families in Tucson. The Meal Kit Program will produce nutritious, ready-to-cook at home meals accompanied by simple bilingual cooking instructions and a companion YouTube video tutorial. Funds will support the buildout of a professional kitchen which will allow TFFP to serve more community members and reach their goal of 10,000 meals provided in a year.

Winchester Heights Health Org

\$20,000

Winchester Health Workshops and Expansion – Willcox, Cochise County

Winchester Heights Health Organization acts as a community resource hub in Willcox. Funds will support upgrades and expansion of cold storage, allowing for increased capacity to provide perishable items while ensuring food remains fresh and safe for distribution and use in community health and nutrition education efforts.

