

# SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE Thursday, February 19, 2026, No Sooner Than 10:55 AM

SRP Administration Building  
1500 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85288

Committee Members: Nicholas Brown, Chair; Sandra Kennedy, Vice Chair; and Robert Arnett, Mario Herrera, Kevin Johnson, Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Larry Rovey, and Stephen Williams

Call to Order

Roll Call

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following agenda item(s) will be considered as a group by the Committee and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these item(s) unless a Committee Member requests, in which event the agenda item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item .....CHAIR NICHOLAS BROWN
  - Request for approval of the minutes for the meeting of November 20, 2025.
2. Corporate Contributions ..... ANNE RICKARD

Request for approval of the following contributions:

- A. \$186,000 to Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation: \$62,000 per year for three years - \$20,000 to support the Phoenix Forge Makerspace; \$20,000 to support the Go Get IT Program; \$16,365 to support basic needs Student Emergency Fund; and \$5,635 towards grant fees.
- B. \$135,000 to Valley of the Sun United Way: \$125,000 to support the Homelessness Prevention Programming; and \$10,000 to sponsor the We Are UNITED event on April 29, 2026.
- C. \$75,000 to Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC): \$25,000 per year for three years to support the CPLC Housing Program.
- D. \$65,000 to Northern Arizona University (NAU) Foundation to support the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Internship Program.
- E. \$50,000 to Arizona Faith Network to support the Extreme Heat Relief Program.
- F. \$35,000 to Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) to support the Single Adult Shelter Services.
- G. \$35,000 to Foster360 to support the Foster360 Housing Program.

- 3. Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees.....JIM PRATT
- 4. Future Agenda Topics..... CHAIR NICHOLAS BROWN

The Committee may vote during the meeting to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with legal counsel to the Committee on any of the matters listed on the agenda.

The Committee may go into Closed Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for records and proceedings relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information.

Visitors: The public has the option to attend in-person or observe via Zoom and may receive teleconference information by contacting the Corporate Secretary’s Office at (602) 236-4398. If attending in-person, all property in your possession, including purses, briefcases, packages, or containers, will be subject to inspection.



**THE NEXT COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026**



MINUTES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

DRAFT

November 20, 2025

A meeting of the Community Relations Committee of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the District) and the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (the Association), collectively SRP, convened at 10:53 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from the Hoopes Board Conference Room at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona. This meeting was conducted in-person and via teleconference in compliance with open meeting law guidelines.

Committee Members present at roll call were S. Kennedy, Vice Chair; and R. Arnett, M. Herrera, K. Johnson, K. Mohr-Almeida, L. Rovey, and S. Williams.

Committee Member absent at roll call was N. Brown, Chair.

Also present were President D. Rousseau; Vice President C. Dobson; Board Members R. Miller, K. O'Brien, M. Pace, P. Rovey, J. White Jr, and L. Williams; Council Chair R. Shelton; Council Vice Chair B. Pacey; Council Liaisons E. Gorsegner and I. Rakow; Council Members G. Geiger and C. Resch-Geretti; I. Avalos, M. Burger, A. Chabrier, A. Gilbert, J. Felty, L. Hobaica, J. Hubbard, R. Judd, V. Kisicki, M. Klein, K. Lee, M. Maser, M. O'Connor, B. Olsen, D. Patterson, J. Pratt, A. Rickard, C. Sifuentes-Kohlbeck, and J. Tucker of SRP; Katy Wilson of TransAlta Corporation; and Ben Wostoupal of Apex Clean Energy.

In compliance with A.R.S. §38-431.02, Andrew Davis of the Corporate Secretary's Office had posted a notice and agenda of the Community Relations Committee meeting at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Vice Chair S. Kennedy called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

Vice Chair S. Kennedy requested a motion for Committee approval of the Consent Agenda, in its entirety.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M. Herrera and seconded by Board Member S. Williams, the Committee unanimously approved and adopted the following item on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Community Relations Committee meeting on August 21, 2025, as presented.

Corporate Secretary J. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M. Herrera's motion to approve the Consent Agenda, in its entirety. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members S. Kennedy, Vice Chair; and R. Arnett, M. Herrera, K. Johnson, K. Mohr-Almeida, L. Rovey, and S. Williams	(7)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	Board Member N. Brown, Chair	(1)

### Corporate Contributions

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Anne Rickard, SRP Director of Community Partnerships, presented Management's request for approval of corporate contributions to the following organizations, along with an overview of SRP employee representation on the boards of those organizations and contributions by other companies to those organizations:

- A. \$225,000 to the University of Arizona Project WET: \$75,000 per year for 3 years to support the SRP STEAM Academy, additional STEAM academies, workshops, and student events.
- B. \$65,000 to the University of Arizona Foundation for the benefit of the University of Arizona College of Engineering to support five student Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) clubs, the University of Arizona Solar Tracker Project and Solar Track Meet, Design Day, the Navajo Scrubber Project Scholarship, and the ENGAGED Forever Fund.
- C. \$55,000 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: \$30,000 to support Homelessness Prevention; and \$25,000 to support Heat Relief.
- D. \$50,000 to the Arizona Science Teachers Association to support the Ambassador Program.
- E. \$50,000 to Teach for America: \$25,000 to support the Sponsor a Teacher program; and \$25,000 to sponsor the Annual Celebration Dinner.
- F. \$45,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of the Valley: \$35,000 to support the AZYouthforce program; and \$10,000 to sponsor the Today's Kids, Tomorrow's Stars event.
- G. \$40,000 to Child Crisis Arizona: \$35,000 to support the Foster Care Shelter program; and \$5,000 to sponsor the Annual Gala.
- H. \$35,000 to the Arizona State University (ASU) Foundation – Modeling Instruction in Physics to support the Modeling Instruction in Physics and Chemistry program.

- I. \$35,000 to Education Forward Arizona: \$25,000 to support Everything to Gain; and \$10,000 to sponsor the Education Forward 2025 fundraising event.
  - J. \$35,000 to Keys to Change (formerly Human Services Campus) to support The Street Outreach program.
  - K. \$32,550 to the ASU Foundation – Mary Lou Fulton Teacher College to support the Environmental Education Program and the Environmental Stewardship Patrol.
- A. Rickard responded to questions from the Committee.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M. Herrera and seconded by Board Member S. Williams, the Committee agreed to recommend Board approval of all corporate contributions, as presented.

Corporate Secretary J. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M. Herrera's motion for approval. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members S. Kennedy, Vice Chair; and R. Arnett, M. Herrera, K. Johnson, K. Mohr-Almeida, L. Rovey, and S. Williams	(7)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	Board Member N. Brown, Chair	(1)

Copies of the handout distributed and the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

#### Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees

Jim Pratt, SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, reported on a variety of federal, state, and local topics of interest to the Committee. They provided an update on SRP's watershed.

#### Future Agenda Topics

Vice Chair S. Kennedy asked the Committee if there were any future agenda topics. None were requested.

There being no further business to come before the Community Relations Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Lora Hobaica  
Assistant Corporate Secretary



# SRP Community Relations Board Committee

Anne Rickard | February 19, 2026

# SRP & Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

Request \$186,000 to support:

- \$20,000 – Phoenix Forge Makerspace
- \$20,000 – Go Get IT Program
- \$16,365 – Student Emergency Fund
- \$5,635 – Grant Fees
- Payable over three years: FY26 – FY28 (\$62,000/year)

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Education	\$58,400	McKell Purnell to join Spring 2026

# Comparatives

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona \$100,000
- Gila River Indian Community \$75,000
- State Farm Insurance \$48,000
- Arizona Republic \$30,000
- Cox Charities \$10,000

# SRP & Valley of the Sun United Way

Request \$135,000 to support:

- \$125,000 – Homelessness Prevention Programming
- \$10,000 – Sponsor the We Are UNITED event

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Basic Needs	\$135,000	Angie Bond-Simpson

# Comparatives

- Microsoft Corporation \$150,000
- Wells Fargo \$100,000
- PNC Bank \$50,000
- USAA \$50,000

# SRP & Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)

Request \$75,000 to support:

- CPLC Housing Program
- Payable over three years: FY27 – FY29 (\$25,000/year)

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Basic Needs	\$25,000	Vanessa Kisicki

# Comparatives

- Banner \$500,000
- Arizona Complete Health Committed with pending amount
- APS Pending commitment
- United Health Care Pending commitment

# SRP & Northern Arizona University (NAU) Foundation

Request \$65,000 to support:

- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Internship Program

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Education	\$50,000	N/A

# Comparatives

- Resolution Copper \$150,000
- Wells Fargo \$10,000
- Patagonia \$5,000

# SRP & Arizona Faith Network

Request \$50,000 to support:

- Extreme Heat Relief Program

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Basic Needs	\$50,000	N/A

# Comparatives

- APS \$50,900
- Chase Bank \$50,000
- Mayo \$5,000

# SRP & Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)

Request \$35,000 to support:

- Single Adult Shelter Services

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Basic Needs	\$25,000	N/A

# Comparatives

- Southwest Gas \$50,000
- Nationwide \$40,000
- APS \$23,000

# SRP & Foster360

Request \$35,000 to support:

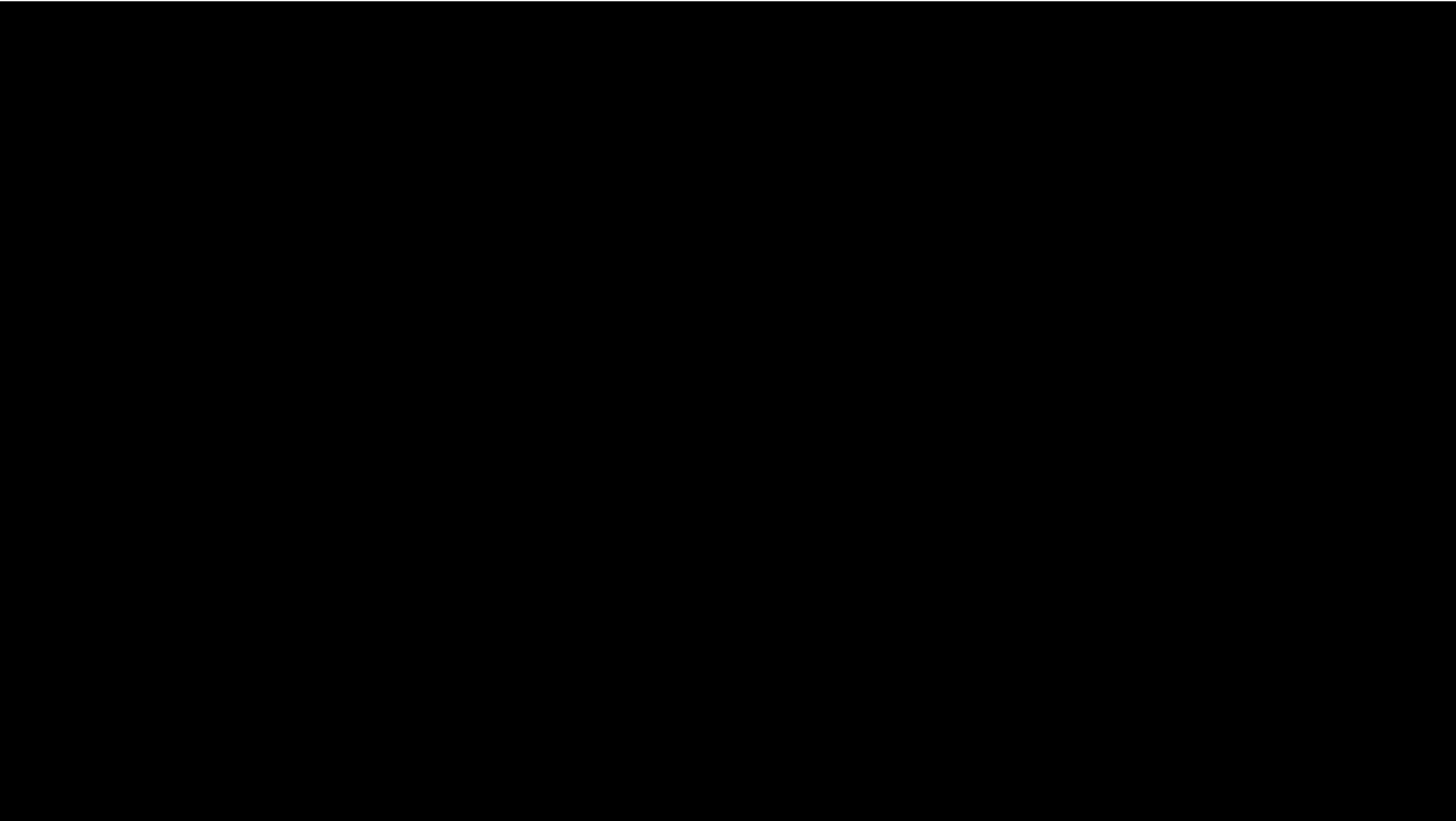
- Foster360 Housing Program

Giving Priority	Previous Contribution	SRP Employee on Board
Basic Needs	\$50,000	N/A

# Comparatives

- Dignity Health (pending) \$30,000
- Cox Charities \$10,000
- Desert Diamond \$5,000

**thank you!**



# AGENDA



February 11, 2026

## Corporate Contributions

### Committee

1. **Call to Order**..... MS. CHABRIER
2. **Safety Minute** ..... MS. RICKARD
3. **Community Partnerships Grant Renewals and Requests –**

*(Grant recommendations of over \$25,001 or more including renewals)* ..... MS. RICKARD

Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

Valley of the Sun United Way

Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)

Northern Arizona University (NAU) Foundation

Arizona Faith Network

Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) Inc.

Foster360

### 4. Chairman's Report

### 5. Adjournment

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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## Corporate Contributions Committee Items for Approval

February 11, 2026

Organization	Amount Recommended	Previous Year Contribution	Focus Area	SRP Employee on Board
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation	\$186,000 (over 3 years)	\$58,400	Education	N/A
Valley of the Sun United Way	\$135,000	\$135,000	Basic Needs	Angie Bond-Simpson
Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)	\$75,000 (over 3 years)	\$25,000	Basic Needs	Vanessa Kisicki
Northern Arizona University (NAU)	\$65,000	\$50,000	Education	N/A
Arizona Faith Network	\$50,000	\$50,000	Basic Needs	N/A
Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)	\$35,000	\$25,000	Basic Needs	N/A
Foster360	\$35,000	\$50,000	Basic Needs	N/A

*Note: Detailed descriptions for each item included in Appendix.*

**Organization:** Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

**Amount Recommended:** \$186,000 (\$62,000/year for 3 years)

**Description:** The Maricopa County Community Colleges District Foundation receives and manages gifts and grants on behalf of all 10 of its colleges. SRP’s support would include:

- 1) Phoenix Forge Makerspace: The Phoenix Forge is a makerspace powered by GateWay Community College on behalf of the Maricopa County Community College District. Its

goals are to increase awareness of STEM careers for students and faculty through hands-on learning and exposure to new technologies and for high school students by providing access to attend a STEM career exploration weeklong camp/workshop in the Phoenix Forge Makerspace. High school students and faculty will explore and experiment with advanced technologies in electronics/robotics and prototype engineering using software, 3D printing, laser cutting, and design thinking.

- 2) Go Get IT (GGIT): The Maricopa Community Colleges "Go Get IT" events introduce students, primarily from Title I schools across the East and West Valley, to the many career possibilities in the field of Information Technology (IT).
- 3) Basic Needs Student Emergency Fund: This Fund provides a wide net of holistic basic needs support services for students experiencing basic needs insecurities. It provides same day support to access food, medical care, housing, and other basic needs. Filling these gaps enables students to continue in school.
- 4) This funding will also cover grant administration fees.

**Board Member:** N/A (McKell Purnell will join board in Spring 2026)

**Comparatives:**

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona \$100,000
- Gila River Indian Community \$75,000
- State Farm Insurance \$48,000
- Arizona Republic \$30,000
- Cox Charities \$10,000

**Organization:** Valley of the Sun United Way

**Amount Recommended:** \$135,000

**Description:** Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) is requesting SRP support for the Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Prevention Initiative and sponsorship of the "We Are United" Luncheon. Through partnerships with more than 100 nonprofits, nearly 500 corporate partners, and thousands of volunteers, VSUW mobilizes resources to address urgent needs and drive long-term solutions across education, health and hunger, housing, and workforce development.

As part of its broader Mighty Change 2026 campaign, VSUW aims to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2026. Support for this initiative will expand eviction prevention, legal aid, and housing navigation services to help families remain safely housed and avoid homelessness. Programs are intentionally located in communities experiencing high rates of poverty and high utilization of supplemental aid services, including Title I schools, community health clinics, nonprofit service providers, and food pantries. During the 2024-2025 program year, VSUW and its partners invested \$2 million in housing and homelessness efforts, providing rental assistance to 4,122

households, utility assistance to 2,872 households and overall serving 19,334 individuals through prevention programs.

**Board Member:** Angie Bond-Simpson

**Comparatives:**

- Microsoft Corporation \$150,000
- PNC Bank \$50,000
- USAA \$50,000
- Wells Fargo \$100,000

**Organization:** Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)

**Amount Recommended:** \$75,000 (\$25,000/year for 3 years)

**Description:** Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) is requesting SRP support for their Health & Housing Fund. For 56 years, CPLC has delivered integrated services in housing, health, education, and economic development to help families overcome barriers and achieve self-sufficiency, with the highest concentration of Arizona clients residing in Maricopa County. Recognizing that 80% of health outcomes are determined by social factors such as housing and income, CPLC is launching a \$15 million Health and Housing Fund to provide rental subsidies, utility assistance, and wraparound services including behavioral health referrals, workforce development, financial literacy, and nutrition support. CPLC will seed the fund with \$3 million and seek donor investments to ensure sustainable eviction prevention and housing stability for families in both urban and rural communities.

Arizona faces an urgent housing crisis driven by rapid population growth, rising rents, and stagnant wages. Eviction filings reached a record 87,130 in Maricopa County in 2024, nearly double the national average. Landlords can initiate eviction just five days after a missed payment, while rental assistance often takes weeks to arrive. Affordable housing is scarce statewide, and more than half of renters are cost burdened. Seniors are among the fastest-growing homeless population, with 1,900 individuals aged 55+ experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County, many for the first time.

This will provide program operating support for essential resources, including staffing and case management services. These services help connect families to housing, healthcare, and other critical resources by stabilizing households and creating pathways to long-term self-sufficiency.

**Board Members:** Vanessa Kisicki

**Comparatives:**

- Banner \$500,000
- Arizona Complete Health Committed with pending amount
- Organizations expected to support: APS, and UnitedHealthcare

**Organization:** Northern Arizona University (NAU) Foundation

**Amount Recommended:** \$65,000

**Description:** The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Internship Program offers Native American students the opportunity to gain hands-on experiences in water resources, land management, and environmental sustainability. Funding would help to support additional internship opportunities (increasing from 22 to 26), enhance program offerings such as specialized training, professional development and career readiness workshops and mentorship programs, and expand the geographic impact through new internship sites.

**Board Member:** N/A

**Comparatives:**

- Resolution Copper \$150,000
- Wells Fargo \$10,000
- Patagonia \$5,000

**Organization:** Arizona Faith Network

**Amount Recommended:** \$50,000

**Description:** The Arizona Faith Network (AFN) is requesting SRP support for the Extreme Heat Relief Program, which provides life-saving services through cooling centers located in faith-based facilities across Maricopa County. These centers welcome all community members—regardless of faith—and operate from May through September, offering a safe and inclusive environment for individuals and their pets. Visitors have access to cooling spaces, water, nutritious snacks, and connections to services through community partnerships.

AFN will continue operating sites in Phoenix, Glendale, and Tempe, with the highest volume of visits anticipated in central and west Valley neighborhoods most impacted by extreme heat, housing instability, and limited access to air conditioning. Peak usage is projected for July and August, with daily visits at larger sites exceeding 300 during Excessive Heat Warnings.

As a key partner in the Heat Relief Network, AFN mobilizes its faith-based partners to assist the most vulnerable populations during Arizona’s record-breaking heat. Demand for these services is expected to rise, with visits increasing from over 48,000 in 2025 to nearly 60,000 in 2026. Notably, more than 70% of visitors reported experiencing homelessness, underscoring the program’s critical role in serving those most at risk.

AFN has received the approved \$50,000 from the board for FY26 to support the 2025 heat relief season. However, an additional \$50,000 within SRP’s FY26 budget—allocated for the 2026 heat relief season—is being requested to ensure the organization’s needs are met at the start of the season. This adjustment will establish an improved payment schedule for AFN and strengthen their ability to remain responsive to community needs during a critical time of year.

**Board Member:** N/A

**Comparatives:**

- APS \$50,900
- Chase Bank \$50,000
- Mayo \$5,000

**Organization:** Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) Inc.

**Amount Recommended:** \$35,000

**Description:** Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) is requesting SRP’s support for its Single Adult Shelter. For more than 40 years, CASS has provided emergency shelter and comprehensive services to individuals and families in crisis, serving over 4,500 people annually. CASS operates three shelters: the 600-bed Single Adult Shelter (Arizona’s largest), The Haven for Seniors, and Vista Colina Family Shelter. In addition to 24/7 low-barrier emergency housing, CASS connects clients to employment, healthcare, mental health services, and substance use treatment. Homelessness remains at high levels in Arizona, with unsheltered homelessness in Maricopa County increasing by 3% from 2024 to 2025.

Funding will provide essential operating support for 600 beds serving approximately 3,500 adults each year, ensuring the continued delivery of critical services and helping thousands transition from homelessness to safe, stable housing.

**Board Member:** N/A

**Comparatives:**

- APS \$23,000
- Nationwide \$40,000
- Southwest Gas \$50,000

**Organization:** Foster360

**Amount Recommended:** \$35,000

**Description:** Foster360 is requesting SRP support its Housing Program, which serves young adults aging out of Arizona’s foster care system who face homelessness, untreated trauma, and limited access to education or employment opportunities. Each year, nearly 900 youth age out of foster care in Arizona, and without support, 50% become homeless within two years, 1 in 3 are sex trafficked, and fewer than 3% complete higher education. The 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Count revealed that 65% of Arizona’s homeless population had previously been in foster care, underscoring the critical need for intervention.

Foster360’s Trauma-Informed Housing Program provides safe, stable housing and wraparound services designed to break cycles of homelessness and adversity. At The Pepper Place, up to 15 youth receive intensive case management, educational and employment assistance, and therapeutic support, including traumatic brain injury therapy through a partnership with Barrow Neurological Institute. Additional services include mental health counseling, art therapy through The Well, and life-skills coaching to build independence.

**Board Member:** N/A

**Comparatives:**

- Cox Charities                                 \$10,000
- Desert Diamond                               \$5,000
- Dignity Health (pending)                 \$30,000

**Corporate Contributions Budget Summary**

FY26 Valley Year-to-Date Actuals – (May 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026)

Priority Area	Budget	YTD Actuals	Remaining Budget
Basic Needs	\$2,244,122	\$1,749,750	\$494,372
Education	\$1,633,965	\$1,170,899	\$463,066
Arts & Culture	\$778,828	\$697,632	\$81,196
Civic Engagement	\$335,186	\$239,400	\$95,786
Environmental	\$158,416	\$56,150	\$102,266
CGS	\$130,000	\$104,785	\$25,215

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Education  
**Official Name:** MARICOPA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT FOUNDATION  
**\*Legal Name:** Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation  
**\*Address:** 2419 W 14th St.  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** Tempe  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85281-6919  
**\*Main Telephone:** 480-731-8400  
**\*Main Email Address:** foundationgrants@domail.maricopa.edu  
**\*Website Address:** <http://mcccdf.org>  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Julie Dunnigan  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 480-731-8098  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** Julie.Dunnigan@domail.maricopa.edu

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2026-01-08)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Education  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** 2026-2028 STEM Programming and Student Support  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$60,500.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$60,500.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00

**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** The Maricopa County Community Colleges District Foundation (MCCF) was established in 1977 as the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designated by the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) to receive and manage gifts and grants on behalf of its 10 colleges. MCCF has a GuideStar Platinum level Seal of Transparency.

Our goal is student success. We achieve this goal by working with MCCCD to offer wrap-around support services (including emergency food, transportation and housing assistance) to remove barriers to higher education. To that end, MCCF actively seeks gifts and grants from a variety of private sources including individuals, corporations, and private foundations. MCCF has a VISION that everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through education. MCCF works to fulfill this vision with its MISSION to boldly impact the community through innovative and strategic partnerships for the growth and benefit of the Maricopa Community Colleges, its students, faculty, and staff.

Awarding scholarships is the most rewarding work that we do and the Foundation has awarded more than \$56 million in scholarships to deserving students.

The Maricopa County Community Colleges District (MCCCD), established in 1962, is dedicated to educational excellence and to meeting the needs of Maricopa County citizens and businesses. MCCCD consists of 10 independently accredited colleges, two skill centers, a corporate college, two college prep high schools, and centers and satellite locations. MCCCD provides personalized education opportunities to over 120,000 students each year, with over 20,000 students enrolled across our growing Bachelors degree programs. Our District has special transfer partnerships with more than 40 institutions, including the three public universities. We focus on career readiness to help today's students achieve their academic goals and successfully gain employment.

In the most recent LightCast economic impact study for the fiscal year 2023-2024, MCCCD added \$8.8 billion in income and 108,190 jobs to the Maricopa County economy, the equivalent of 2.4 percent of the total gross regional product of Maricopa County.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:** We value SRP's annual partnership in fulfilling our mutual objectives to help our future workforce grow through programs that focus on STEM education, job-readiness and employment skills.

Like SRP, our programs aim to make the community a better place by developing the leaders of tomorrow and improving the local economy by providing local industry with a well-trained talent pipeline.

MCCCD programs and partnerships reach students in the K-12 systems to increase high school graduation rates, college readiness, and successful entry into community college and 4-year universities.

Local industry partnerships serve to inform curriculum, provide meaningful internships, employment skills and job-readiness activities, and promote equity in opportunity through scholarships and other support of low income and underserved student populations.

**Project/Program Description:** We seek a three-year conditionally renewing annual SRP investment of \$60,500 per year for the following high priority areas:

- 1) STEM: Phoenix Forge Makerspace (\$20K/Yr)
- 2) STEM: Go Get IT (\$20K/Yr)
- 3) STUDENT SUPPORT: Basic Needs Student Emergency Fund (\$15K/Yr)
- 4) 10% Grant Administration (5,500/Yr)

#### DESCRIPTIONS AND GOALS

- 1) Phoenix Forge Makerspace - \$20,000/Year

##### DESCRIPTION:

The Phoenix Forge is a makerspace powered by GateWay Community College on behalf of the Maricopa County Community College District. It is open to the public, MCCCD students, staff and faculty. SRP funding will be used to cover costs of contract Instructors, workshops and summer camps for High School and community college school students.

##### GOALS:

Increase awareness of STEM careers for up to 50 students and faculty through hands-on learning and exposure to new technologies.

Increase interest in STEM careers for 20 High School students by providing access to attend a STEM career exploration weeklong camp/workshop in the Phoenix Forge Makerspace. High school students and faculty will explore and experiment with advanced technologies in electronics/robotics and prototype engineering using software, 3D printing, laser cutting, and design thinking.

- 2026 Go Get IT (GGIT) - \$20,000/Year

DESCRIPTION: The Maricopa Community Colleges "Go Get IT" events introduce students, primarily from Title 1 schools across the East and West valley, to the many career possibilities in the field of Information Technology (IT). Keynote speakers (software engineers, web designers, program developers and data analysts) currently working in exciting STEM career fields share stories of the amazing journey that brought them to this point, inspiring attendees to see themselves as successful in STEM, too. Through interactive workshops, attendees learn about emerging technologies and the full range of educational programs and in-demand professional opportunities available in IT, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, web application design, object-oriented software development and more. Faculty, staff and community volunteers donate their time to organize and execute the event. SRP's generous support will be recognized at the events and in marketing and promotional materials. Expenses related to hosting the Go Get IT events include securing a venue, providing bus transportation for students to attend, meals, snacks, swag bags, T-shirts, marketing and promotional material, printing, furniture and equipment rental, A/V and other event-related expenses.

**GOALS:**

Provide approx. 230 students with access to "Go Get IT" programming:

The goal for the \$15,000 for "Go Get IT East Valley Colleges" is to provide 150 junior high or high school students with access to the East Valley event.

The goal for the \$5,000 for "Go Get IT West Valley Colleges" is to provide approx. 80 junior high or high school students with access to the West Valley event.

**3) Basic Needs Student Emergency Fund - \$15,000/Year**

**DESCRIPTION:**

This Fund provides a wide net of holistic basic needs support services for students experiencing basic needs insecurities. Underprivileged students can be thrown into a financial crisis at any moment as a result of lost wages due to an illness, transportation breakdown, unreliable childcare, and other life events. Our "Emergency Fund Program" provides same day support to access food, medical care, housing, and other basic needs. Filling these gaps enables students to continue in school to achieve their greatest potential, which benefits our entire community..

**GOALS:**

Provide approx. 50 underprivileged students experiencing a one-time financial crisis with the support to get them through a hard time.

**Program Metrics:** 2026 Go Get IT Metrics

Target population: Primarily 230 students from Title 1 schools in the East and West Valley.

Number of participants enabled to attend the GGIT East Valley Event.

Number of participants enabled to attend the GGIT West Valley Event.

2026 Phoenix Forge Makerspace:

Number of 7th-12th graders who gain access to attend a 5-day STEM Career Exploration Summer Camp.

Number of students and faculty who receive and participate in a structured four-month Makerspace membership.

2026 Basic Needs Emergency Fund.

Number of students benefiting from the SRP \$15,000 contribution.

Categories of support provided and number of students in each category (grocery gift card, bus pass, rental assistance, and other basic needs requested.)

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:** 2026 Go Get IT: \$20,000 Two STEM Program Sponsorships in the East and West Valley. Support covers venue costs, transportation, food, swag bags, T-shirts, marketing and promotional material, printing, furniture rental, and other program related expenses.

2026 Phoenix Forge Makerspace: \$20,000 broken up to support STEM Career Exploration Summer Camp with \$6,000 to cover attendance for twenty 7th-12 grade students, plus \$4,000 for supplies/instructional materials. \$10K Makerspace memberships for 50 students for four months.

2026 Basic Needs Emergency Fund. \$15,000 will provide students with immediate access to food, housing, and other basic needs.

10% Foundation fee for Grant Administration: \$5,500.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** 2026 Go Get IT Events Recognition of SRP Support

SRP's \$15,000 Sponsorship of the East Valley GGIT Program will be recognized in 2026 events and in related marketing and promotional materials:

Name on screen during opening session

Name on program

Name on t-shirts for all participants

Signage in courtyard around workshop rooms

Opportunity to have workshop room named in honor of your organization

Opportunity to include your own branded item in swag bag

Podium recognition during Lunch and Learn with students and industry professionals

SRP \$5,000 Sponsorship support of the West Valley GGIT Program will receive the following benefits and recognition:

Name on screen during opening session

Name on program

Name on t-shirts for all participants (300+)

Signage in courtyard around workshop rooms

Opportunity to have workshop room named in honor of your organization

Opportunity to include your own branded item in swag bag

**Other Sources of Funding:** Commitments as of Jan. 8, 2026 for 2026 programs/events:

Go Get IT: Microchip, Cox Communications, Infosys, QTS Data Centers, City of Scottsdale, Nationwide sponsor GGIT, participate in delivering workshops, or mentoring participants.

Phoenix Forge: Dept. of Commerce, APS, City of Phoenix, ASU partner with Phoenix Forge to contribute to the makerspace operations and memberships.

Student Emergency Fund: Gila River Indian Community, \$75K; Tohono O'odham Nation, \$50K; Cox Charities, \$10K; SRP-MIC, \$100K; Arizona Republic, \$30K; State Farm Insurance, \$48K

**Similar Organizations:** We are the only organization that supports fundraising for programming and scholarships for all ten Maricopa County Community Colleges. Total funds raised during the 2024-2025 fiscal year is \$17-million.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Kelli Rael, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

## Internal Comments

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for the following: 2026 Go Get IT: Two STEM Program Sponsorships in the East and West Valley (\$20,000); 2026 Phoenix Forge Makerspace (\$20,000); 2026 Basic Needs Emergency Fund (\$15,000); 10% Foundation fee for Grant Administration (\$5,500).

## Attachments

**Annual Reports:**

**In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**

**Current Year Budget:** MCCCCDF Budget fiscal year July 1 2025 to June 30 2026.pdf

**Last Year's Budget:** FY24-25 MCCC Statement of Activities - 2025\_04-30.pdf

**Program Budget:** 2026 MCCC Budget for SRP STEM Grant.pdf

**Audited Financial Statements:** Audited Financial-Statement year end June 2024.pdf

**Board of Directors Listing:** MCCF\_Board\_photos\_updated\_Dec2,2025.pdf

**List of Corporate Contributors:** MCCF Largest Grants FY2024-2025.pdf

**Additional Attachment (1):**

**Additional Attachment (2):**

**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**

**Number of Events:** 0

**Custom Report:**

**Event 1 Name - Approved:**

**Event 1 Date - Approved:**

**Event 2 Name - Approved:**

**Event 2 Date - Approved:**

**Event 3 Name - Approved:**

**Event 3 Date - Approved:**

**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

## Payment

## Scan

Score	Scanned Entity	Match	WatchList Name	WatchList Detail
95%	Christina Schultz (Contact Full Name)	Schultz, Christine	FBI Most Wanted	Schultz, Christine Listing: Schultz, Christine - Individual Reason: Enforcement:Burglary Address: United States DOB: 2000-05-25 DOB: 2000-05-24 Other: Link to WorldCompliance Online Database Other: Sources of Record Information PlaceOfBirth: Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

**Last Scanned By:** Karla Esparza

**Last Scanned Time:** 2026-01-08 16:28:22 EST

**Reason for scan:** Submission for Approval

Scan results accepted: by Karla Esparza (System) on 2026-01-08 16:28:22 EST  
Scan results automatically accepted by system based on previous acceptance by knesparz on 2026-01-08 16:27:29 EST

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$60,500.00

**\*Recommended Amount:** \$186,000.00

- Prior Approved Grants:**
- 2014 - - \$5,000.00
  - 2014 - - \$10,000.00
  - 2014 - - \$0.00
  - 2014 - - \$0.00
  - 2015 - - \$10,000.00
  - 2015 - - \$4,000.00
  - 2015 - - \$1,200.00
  - 2016 - - \$15,000.00
  - 2016 - - \$1,200.00
  - 2016 - - \$2,000.00
  - 2017 - - \$15,000.00

- 2018 - Heidi Schaefer Board Dues - \$1,200.00
- 2018 - 30th Anniversary Gala Tickets - \$230.00
- 2018 - 4th Annual Tea and Silent Auction Fundraiser - \$1,000.00
- 2019 - Heroes of Education, Four College Events, and In-kind Printing of the Annual Report - \$17,019.55
- 2020 - Powering 100 Years of STEAM Education, and In-kind Printing - \$17,499.30
- 2020 - Heidi Schaefer Tickets: Runway to Success - \$250.00
- 2020 - Sponsor Glendale Community College Skills USA Competitions - \$2,000.00
- 2021 - Dollars for Doers Grant - \$250.00
- 2021 - Heroes of Education Platinum Sponsor and In-kind Services - \$27,188.00
- 2022 - Board Dues Geri Mingura - \$1,500.00
- 2022 - 2022 STARS Gala Sponsorship - \$3,000.00
- 2023 - Geri Mingura Gift (Board Dues) - \$1,500.00
- 2023 - Sponsorships and STEM Program Support - \$52,520.00
- 2024 - 2024 Sponsorships and STEM Program Support - \$55,000.00
- 2024 - Equipment Donation - Electric Vehicle (EV) - \$15,000.00
- 2025 - South Mountain Community College Verna McClain Student Emergency Fund Reception - \$1,000.00
- 2025 - 2025 Sponsorships and STEM Program Support - \$58,400.00
- 2026 - FY26 Board Dues for Geri Mingura - \$1,200.00

**Request Status:** Pending

**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition

**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist

**Completed:** 2026-01-08

**Result:** Defined

**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend

**Performed By:** Kelli Rael / COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP REPRESENTATIVE SENIOR

**Completed:** 2026-01-21

**Result:** Recommended

**Comments:** \$186,000 (3 year grant \$62,000/year for 3 years) to support:

- operating support for Phoenix Forge Makerspace (\$20,000)
- operating support for Go Get IT program (\$20,000)
- funding for basic needs student emergency fund (\$16,350)
- grant fees (\$5,635)

**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval

**Performed By:**

**Completed:**

**Result:**

**Comments:**

**Contact**

**Salutation:**

**\*First Name:** Melissa

**Middle Name:**

**\*Last Name:** Meadows

**Vendor Number:**

**Title:** Grants Compliance and Fiscal Manager

**Title (CEO):**

**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 480-731-8559  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** foundationgrants@domail.maricopa.edu  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2025-12-19  
**Last Saved By:** 100000009787267  
**Last Saved Date:** 19-DEC-25 03.46.51.393409 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

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**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Nilam  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Patel  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Workforce & Industry Development Officer Senior  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 480-731-8708  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** nilam.patel@domail.maricopa.edu  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2022-09-27  
**Last Saved By:** 100000009787267  
**Last Saved Date:** 27-SEP-22 03.03.44.434750 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**

**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

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**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Sharon  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Weltz  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Grants Officer Senior  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 480-731-8400  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** sharon.weltz@domail.maricopa.edu  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2019-10-02  
**Last Saved By:** 100000009787267  
**Last Saved Date:** 08-JAN-26 04.14.33.984444 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Official Name:** VALLEY OF THE SUN UNITED WAY  
**\*Legal Name:** Valley of the Sun United Way  
**\*Address:** 3115 N. 3rd Avenue  
**Address 2:** Suite G130  
**\*City:** Phoenix  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85013  
**\*Main Telephone:** 602-631-4800  
**\*Main Email Address:** information@vsuw.org  
**\*Website Address:** www.vsuw.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Carla Vargas Jasa  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 602-631-4800  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** cjasa@vsuw.org

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2026-01-02)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** Valley of the Sun United Way's Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Prevention Initiative  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$145,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$145,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00  
**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) works to create a community where all have the opportunity to thrive. We improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community and advancing community-led goals across education, health and hunger, housing, and workforce development.

Founded in 1925, VSUW is a trusted leader and central convener in Maricopa County. We unite nonprofits, schools, corporations, foundations, and regional partners to drive progress toward shared community goals. Through investments in a wide network of nonprofit, school, government, and community partners, VSUW serves children, families, and individuals in communities across Maricopa County.

Each year, VSUW strengthens the community safety net to meet urgent needs, including homelessness prevention, hunger relief, and disaster response, while also leading collaborative solutions that improve long-term stability, such as eviction prevention and pathways to employment. In partnership with over 100 nonprofits and schools, nearly 500 corporate partners, and more than 9,000 volunteers, VSUW helps ensure families can meet basic needs, recover from crisis, and move toward lasting financial stability.

During the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), VSUW invested a total of \$6,268,824 through a competitive grant process to support critical, community-based initiatives through partnerships with dozens of local nonprofit agencies. Of this amount, \$2,083,830 supported Housing and Homelessness efforts. Key FY25 highlights include:

\*Provided 4,122 individuals and families with rental assistance through grants to our nonprofit partners, enabling households to remain housed.

\*Distributed 28,639,965 meals through emergency meals and Pantry Packs, including Pantry Packs delivered to Title I schools and meals delivered to homebound senior citizens.

\*Supported 816 local K-12 teachers through professional development activities that strengthened classroom instruction and student outcomes.

\*Reached 2,352 individuals who completed job training and workforce readiness workshops, supporting progress toward employment and career advancement.

VSUW's geographic impact spans Maricopa County, including more than 25 cities and towns, with programming concentrated in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of poverty and housing instability. By combining direct community investment with strong cross-sector partnerships, VSUW helps families meet immediate needs while advancing community-led solutions that create lasting change.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:** This request aligns directly with SRP's Basic Needs priority by helping households remain safely housed and avoid homelessness. VSUW's Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention work strengthens the local safety net through prevention-focused financial assistance, housing navigation, and coordinated eviction prevention supports.

In 2026, VSUW will expand eviction prevention and legal aid access, improve coordinated entry and referral pathways so families connect to help faster, and reduce the number of households that progress from crisis to homelessness.

**Project/Program Description:** Maricopa County's rapid growth and rising housing costs have increased the number of households facing housing instability. Housing loss is closely tied to hunger, poor health outcomes, school disruption, and job loss. Families often experience multiple stressors at the same time, and small setbacks can quickly lead to eviction and homelessness.

VSUW's Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention initiative is a coordinated set of services delivered through trusted community partners across Maricopa County, including legal service providers, housing navigators, and community action agencies. The initiative helps households stabilize quickly, avoid eviction when possible, and access safe housing options when displacement cannot be prevented. By connecting households to wraparound supports that address barriers, the initiative also strengthens long-term stability and reduces repeat crises.

Goals of the initiative include:

\*Prevent eviction and housing loss through timely stabilization assistance, legal support, and housing navigation.

\*Improve coordinated access and outcomes by strengthening referrals, warm handoffs, and partner coordination across high-need areas.

Core strategies include:

\*Homelessness prevention and stabilization assistance that helps households avoid eviction and remain housed

\*Faster coordinated access to services through improved referrals, warm handoffs, and reduced barriers to entry

\*Expanded eviction prevention supports, including increased access to legal aid and related navigation for households facing eviction

\*Housing navigation and wraparound supports that address barriers such as transportation, documentation, benefits enrollment, and connection to health or behavioral health services

\*Convening and coordination across partners to improve responsiveness in high-need areas, align resources, and strengthen outcomes across the system

**Program Metrics:** As part of the broader Mighty Change 2026 initiative, VSUW systematically monitors key metrics and desired outcomes within the Housing and Homelessness focus area. These include:

\*Metric 1: Prevention and Assistance

\*Metric 2: Reduction in Housing Insecurity

VSUW works closely with more than 100 long-standing program partners to collect, evaluate, and share comprehensive data across all Housing and Homelessness Prevention activities. Each partner submits bi-annual reports, enabling VSUW to assess the collective impact of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention initiative. These reports allow VSUW to evaluate key outputs, including:

- 1.Total number of individuals and families served
- 2.Number of individuals and families reporting a decreased need for emergency aid
- 3.Number of families receiving rental assistance
- 4.Number of families receiving utility assistance

VSUW uses these quarterly data cycles to monitor program effectiveness, track changes in need, and adjust strategies to strengthen engagement and improve access to critical resources. In addition to the core outcomes tracked by VSUW, partner organizations often capture additional metrics specific to their services. These success metrics include:

\*Number of housing navigators deployed

\*Individuals receiving legal assistance related to eviction

\*Transportation and utility assistance provided

\*Diversion services secured and number of individuals diverted

\*Individuals enrolled in healthcare benefits

\*Individuals moved into safe and stable housing through navigator or case manager support

\*Individuals housed directly from clinical sites

\*Referrals made for permanent housing

\*Government benefit assessments completed

\*Clients actively working with a navigator or case manager

During the 2024-2025 program year, VSUW and its partners served 19,334 individuals across all Housing and Homelessness Prevention activities.

VSUW's service area encompasses Maricopa County, with the majority of housing and homelessness supports concentrated in the urban neighborhoods of Downtown/Central Phoenix and South Phoenix. Programs are intentionally located in communities experiencing high rates of poverty and high utilization of supplemental aid services, including Title I schools, community health clinics, nonprofit service providers, and food pantries. Approximately 99% of individuals and families served have incomes below the federal poverty level and demonstrate a heightened need for financial assistance.

Based on historical program data, more than half of all participants come from communities of color:

\*Black -- 12%

\*Caucasian/White (Non-Hispanic) -- 24%

\*Hispanic -- 34%

\*American Indian -- 4%

\*Asian -- 2%

\*Two or more identifications -- 6%

The program serves individuals across all age groups, with past participation reflecting the following distribution:

\*Children (0--17) -- 30%

\*Young Adults (18--24) -- 7%

\*Adults (25--54) -- 39%

\*Seniors (55+) -- 22%

\*Age Not Reported -- 2%

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:** VSUW respectfully requests \$145,000 in support of housing stability and homelessness prevention in Maricopa County.

\*\$125,000 will support Homelessness Prevention programming, including expanded eviction prevention, faster coordinated access to services, and increased access to legal aid for households facing eviction, alongside housing navigation and stabilization supports that help families remain safely housed.

\*\$10,000 will support a We Are United sponsorship, enabling SRP to join VSUW's annual community gathering that celebrates progress and mobilizes resources aligned with VSUW's community goals. The 2026 We Are United Luncheon will be held on April 29, 2026, at the Arizona Biltmore.

\*\$10,000 will support a Volunteer Engagement Opportunity designed for SRP employees, connecting hands-on service to homelessness prevention through a structured volunteer experience that delivers tangible resources and partner capacity support.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** As part of this request, VSUW is seeking a \$10,000 We Are United sponsorship at the Champion Sponsor level. Sponsor benefits include:

\*Table of 10

\*Logo placement in the event program

\*Recognition in event communications

\*Logo on website, digital screens, and event signage

\*Social media recognition

VSUW will confirm sponsorship timelines and deliverables upon award notification, including logo due dates and file specifications.

**Other Sources of Funding:** VSUW sustains housing stability and homelessness prevention work through a diversified funding strategy that includes corporate and foundation philanthropy, individual giving, and other community investments. Key funding categories include:

(1) corporate giving and workplace campaigns, (2) private and family foundations, (3) community foundations and donor-advised funds, (4) local, state, and federal government grants and contracts, (5) individual donors and major gifts, and (6) event sponsorships and in-kind contributions.

Program implementation is delivered through a network of community-based partners that provide direct services such as housing navigation, case management, eviction prevention support, and wraparound stabilization services. This collective approach strengthens the continuity of services and helps coordinate resources to reduce duplication and improve outcomes.

**Similar Organizations:** Many organizations in Maricopa County provide direct housing and homelessness services, including emergency shelter, rental assistance, outreach, and case management. VSUW's distinct value is our backbone role as a trusted convener and funder that supports a large partner network, aligns resources, strengthens coordination, and advances shared goals at a county-wide scale.

By combining direct investment with collaborative infrastructure, shared learning, and partner support, VSUW helps local providers deliver services more effectively and reach more households before crises become homelessness.

Similar organizations and roles in the local ecosystem include:

\*Emergency shelter and transitional housing providers that offer short-term safety, stabilization, and connections to services.

\*Rapid rehousing and housing navigation organizations that help households locate and secure housing, address documentation barriers, and connect to benefits.

\*Eviction prevention and rental assistance programs operated by nonprofits, municipalities, and community action agencies.

\*Street outreach and coordinated entry partners that engage unsheltered neighbors and connect them to assessment, shelter, and housing options.

\*Legal aid organizations that provide eviction defense, tenant education, and support to reduce displacement.

\*Behavioral health, domestic violence, and family support providers that address the underlying drivers of housing instability.

What differentiates VSUW is that we do not operate as a pass-through. We function as the backbone that accelerates outcomes across the full system by executing systems change in six connected ways:

1.Policy: VSUW helps advance policy-informed strategies that improve housing stability, including support for a right-to-counsel approach and other measures that prevent avoidable evictions and reduce unnecessary entry into homelessness.

2.Practices: VSUW strengthens front-line effectiveness by improving how services are delivered across partners. Examples include reducing barriers through updated income qualification practices when appropriate; increasing capacity for eviction prevention legal support; and integrating financial literacy and stabilization coaching so households can remain housed longer.

3.Relationships and networks: VSUW convenes partners at least quarterly to align shared priorities, address gaps, and share what is working. Through a "Building a Village" approach grounded in "Building Trust," we help providers coordinate referrals, improve warm handoffs, and reduce duplication, so families experience a more connected system.

4.Power dynamics: VSUW intentionally elevates community voice by including people with lived experience in planning and problem-solving, ensuring solutions reflect real barriers while building dignity, access, and effectiveness.

5.Resource flows: VSUW increases and aligns funding to expand prevention capacity, strengthen service coverage in high-need areas, and builds the operational capacity of nonprofit partners so the safety net can respond faster and more consistently.

6.Mental models: VSUW works to shift stigma and misperceptions about homelessness by reinforcing prevention-focused, strengths-based narratives that recognize the role of housing costs, shocks, and system barriers, not personal failure.

Together, these actions allow VSUW to connect what happens at the front door of services to county-wide improvement, helping Maricopa County providers prevent more evictions, reduce inflow into homelessness, and stabilize households sooner.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Juana Hernandez, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

## Internal Comments

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**Internal Comments:**

Requesting support for the Homelessness Prevention programming (\$125,000); a sponsorship for the 2026 We are United Luncheon (\$10,000) on April 29, 2026; and support a Volunteer Engagement Opportunity designed for SRP employees, connecting hands-on service to homelessness prevention through a structured volunteer experience that delivers tangible resources and partner capacity support (\$10,000).

## Attachments

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**Annual Reports:**  
**In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**  
**Sponsorship Packet:** 2026 We Are United Luncheon Celebration-Sponsoring Partner Packet.pdf  
**Current Year Budget:** FYE2026 VSUW Organizational Budget.pdf  
**Last Year's Budget:** FYE2025 VSUW Budget.pdf  
**Program Budget:** We Are United Breakfast Event FY26 - Budget.xlsx, VSUW FY25 Program Budget.pdf  
**Audited Financial Statements:** FY25 VSUW Audited Financial Statements .pdf  
**Board of Directors Listing:** FY26 BOD Roster - 11 25.pdf  
**List of Corporate Contributors:** Corporate Funders FY26.xlsx  
**Additional Attachment (1):**  
**Additional Attachment (2):**  
**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**  
**Number of Events:** 1

## Event One

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**Event 1 Event Name:** 2026 We are United Luncheon  
**Event 1 Date:** 2026-04-29  
**Event 1 Location :** Arizona Biltmore, 2400 East Missouri Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
**Event 1 Number of Attendees:** 600  
**Event 1 Cash Requested:** 10000  
**Event 1 In-Kind Requested:** 0  
**Event 1 Other Event Info:** On April 29, 2026, at the historic Arizona Biltmore, Valley of the Sun United Way will bring together the Valley's most influential business, academic, and community leaders for our annual gathering. As one of these key leaders, we hope you will join us and consider serving as a sponsor of this signature event.  
  
Together, we will celebrate Valley of the Sun United Way's centennial milestone and reflect on our progress in uniquely addressing our community's most pressing needs in education, health and hunger, housing, and workforce development. By partnering with innovators, thought leaders, and visionaries, we continue to meet the moment--as demonstrated through the meaningful impact of our MC2026 Mighty Change initiative.  
  
**SRP Volunteer Opportunities? 1:** No  
**Event 1 Net Proceeds Previous Year:** \$276,469.00  
**Event 1 Other Event Sponsors :** Yes  
**Event 1 Other Sponsors and Dollar Amount:** USAA - \$25,000  
PNC - \$20,000  
Fry's Food Stores - \$15,000  
Nationwide - \$10,000  
  
**Event 1 Promo Booth:** No  
**Custom Report:**  
**Event 1 Name - Approved:**  
**Event 1 Date - Approved:**  
**Event 2 Name - Approved:**  
**Event 2 Date - Approved:**  
**Event 3 Name - Approved:**  
**Event 3 Date - Approved:**  
**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

# Payment

## Scan

Score	Scanned Entity	Match	WatchList Name	WatchList Detail
96%	Maria Mendoza (Contact Full Name)	MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA	Excluded Party List System (EPLS)	MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA Listing: MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA - Individual Reason: Reciprocal Address: GLENDALE AZ 85303 USA Other: Active Date Other: Additional Comments Other: CT Code Other: Excluding Agency Other: Excluding Program Other: Excluding Type Other: Termination Date
96%	Maria Mendoza (Contact Full Name)	MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA	OIG Exclusions	MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA Listing: MENDOZA, MARIA TERESA - Individual Address: P O BOX 1143 GLENDALE AZ 85311 Occupation: IND- LIC HC SERV PRO Occupation: NURSE/NURSES AIDE DOB: 1957-10-25 Incident: 1128b4
95%	Nikki Smith (Contact Full Name)	SMITH, NICOLE	Excluded Party List System (EPLS)	SMITH, NICOLE Listing: SMITH, NICOLE - Individual Reason: Reciprocal Address: INDIANAPOLIS IN 46221 USA Other: Active Date Other: Excluding Agency Other: Excluding Program Other: Excluding Type Other: Termination Date
94%	Carolyn Grove (Contact Full Name)	GROVE, CAROL T	OIG Exclusions	GROVE, CAROL T Listing: GROVE, CAROL T - Individual Address: 1125 W DAUPHINE STREET, B PHILADELPHIA PA 19133 Occupation: INDIVIDUAL (UNAFFILI Occupation: PERSONAL CARE PROVID DOB: 1950-07-13 Incident: 1128a1

**Last Scanned By:** Karla Esparza

**Last Scanned Time:** 2026-01-08 10:38:01 EST

**Reason for scan:** Submission for Approval

Scan results accepted:

by Karla Esparza (System) on 2026-01-08 10:38:01 EST

Scan results automatically accepted by system based on previous acceptance by knesparz on 2026-01-08 10:37:48 EST

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$145,000.00  
**\*Recommended Amount:** \$145,000.00  
**Prior Approved Grants:**

- 2013 - - \$314,150.00
- 2013 - - \$343,574.00
- 2014 - - \$100.00
- 2014 - - \$350,000.00
- 2014 - - \$9,000.00

- 2015 - - \$340,000.00
- 2018 - General Support - \$355,200.00
- 2019 - General Support & Sponsorship - \$365,720.00
- 2020 - General Support and Sponsorship - \$376,542.00
- 2020 - COVID-19 Relief Funds - \$100,000.00
- 2021 - General Support & Sponsorship - \$285,000.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,833.25
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,735.75
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$4,003.50
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,276.90
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,547.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,532.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,595.00
- 2022 - General Support & Sponsorship - \$235,000.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,896.50
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$90.00
- 2022 - 2021 Loaned Executive Program Commitment - \$9,000.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$693.10
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,895.95
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$4,058.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,975.40
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,239.40
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,233.40
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$4,859.10
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$7,347.70
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,375.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$720.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,948.70
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,996.80
- 2023 - General Support & Sponsorship - \$235,000.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,831.40
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,747.10
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$10.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,410.40
- 2023 - Loaned Executive Sponsorship - \$9,000.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,942.40
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,700.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,931.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,619.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,936.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,644.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$394.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,489.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$231.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,550.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,616.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1.00

- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,543.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,918.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$430.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,700.00
- 2024 - Mighty Change 2026 and We Are UNITED - \$235,000.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,732.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,863.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,851.40
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,488.00
- 2025 - Housing and Homelessness and We Are UNITED - \$185,000.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,842.30
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$574.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,591.60
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,898.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,404.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,394.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,659.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,414.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$379.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,374.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$51.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$4,615.85
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$6,600.45
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,936.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$3,920.16
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,374.00
- 2026 - Valley of the Sun United Way's Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Prevention Initiative - \$135,000.00
- 2026 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$5,140.30
- 2026 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$60.00
- - -
- - - \$0.00
- - - \$0.00
- - -

**Request Status:** Pending  
**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition  
**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist  
**Completed:** 2026-01-08  
**Result:** Defined  
**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend  
**Performed By:** Juana Hernandez / Sr. Representative Community Stewardship  
**Completed:** 2026-01-15  
**Result:** Recommended  
**Comments:** Approved. February Committee Meeting

CPG  
- Operating support for the Homelessness Prevention Programming (\$125,000)  
- Sponsor the We Are UNITED event on April 29, 2026 (\$10,000)

CPE  
- Volunteer Engagement Opportunity (\$10,000)  
**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval  
**Performed By:**  
**Completed:**  
**Result:**  
**Comments:**

## Contact

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**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Nikki  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Smith  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Grants Administrator Manager  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 602-568-0761  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** grants@vsuw.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2024-12-06  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000007579979  
**Last Saved Date:** 06-DEC-24 04.30.20.563105 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

---

**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Rafael  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Cantu  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Corporate & Foundation Philanthropic Partnership D  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**

**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 602-631-4800  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** rcantu@vsuw.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2025-12-10  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000007579979  
**Last Saved Date:** 10-DEC-25 03.36.04.432141 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Official Name:** CHICANOS POR LA CAUSA INC  
**\*Legal Name:** Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)  
**\*Address:** 1112 E. Buckeye Rd.  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** Phoenix  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85034  
**\*Main Telephone:** 6022576711  
**\*Main Email Address:** amanda.bernal@cplc.org  
**\*Website Address:** www.CPLC.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Alicia Nunez  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 6022570700  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** presidentnunez@cplc.org

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2025-12-11)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** CPLC Health and Housing Eviction Prevention Fund  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$75,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$75,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00

**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC) is strongly committed to a mission of driving economic and political empowerment. With over 32 programs impacting more than 1 million individuals and families, with close to 2,300 employees, and more than 35 offices across eight states.

We count on the generosity of donors like SRP for a significant portion of our funding to help meet the needs of the families and individuals we serve. CPLC provides services to men, women and children across the State of Arizona with highest percentages of CPLC clients reside in Maricopa County and in SRP served communities. Approximately 75% of clients have an income below poverty and 69% are Hispanic (in Arizona). CPLC provides comprehensive services in the forms of Integrated Health and Human Services, Education, Economic Development and Housing.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:** CPLC aligns well with SRP's commitment of providing and supporting programs promoting an individual's ability to overcome barriers and become self-sufficient. After 56 years of service to communities across the Southwest, CPLC recognizes that the needs of the families we serve are complex and intertwined; a family rarely approaches CPLC with only one need. Families are often faced with impossible decisions like whether to forgo medical treatment to pay rent or forgo rent to pay for food. Unstable income, unsafe housing, or food insecurity can negatively impact health. Issues with health, housing, or basic needs may stand in the way of a client and a new job. As the lives of family members are deeply interconnected, so are their needs

According to various findings and studies examining Social Determinants of Health, only 20% of an individual's modifiable health outcomes are attributed to access to or quality of clinical care, whereas:

\*40% is a result of factors such as education, employment, income, and community safety.

\*30% is a result of health behaviors such as nutrition, exercise, substance use, and sexual activity.

\*10% is a result of the physical environment such as housing, air, and water quality.

This means a full 80% of an individual's health status is determined outside of the healthcare setting. A family may require a wide range of services to make sustainable improvements in their quality of life. Unfortunately, families are often faced with the prospect of having to connect with a different service provider to meet every need when transportation and time are scarce. A family may be provided with numerous referrals and never make their first appointment.

In response, CPLC is seeking to build a \$15 Million dollar plus fund/ Endowment from various funders/ partners across multiple states.

**Project/Program Description:** The \$15 Million dollar plus fund/ Endowment from various funders/ partners across multiple states. The fund will provide rental subsidy, supportive services and referral assistance throughout our Southwest footprint in both urban and rural areas. CPLC will go through an RFP process to identify a nonprofit partner to manage the fund on behalf of CPLC. The fund will be utilized to support eviction prevention, a key component to addressing affordable housing, and connect providers to their clients to reduce healthcare costs.

Investment income from the endowment will provide rental and utility subsidy for housing insecure families. Our supportive housing staff will provide case management services and referrals to families and individuals in need. Services and programming include:

\*Developing Supportive Housing plans & referrals

\*Utility assistance

\*Behavioral health care referrals (youth and adult)

\*Workforce development services and resources

\*Financial literacy workshops

\*Healthy food distribution and nutrition education with local partnerships

Providers who contribute to the fund will get priority intake referral processing for their clients when identified in the system. Any data collected from the provider's clients will be shared with that investor entities staff only. This co-enrollment with the provider's client and the program staff will strengthen client outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and bring stability to families across the state.

**Program Metrics:** Supportive Housing staff work in tandem with the client to develop an individualized service plan and the client is directly connected to services provided at the property/ on-site. Supportive Housing staff is trained to work with Property owners and managers to build relationships so the program will be successful. Program staff is trained in motivational interviewing, trauma informed care, mental health 101, and harm reduction to support all client needs. Using a similar model in the past CPLC was able to:

\*Provide nearly 3,000 meals from its diabetic food pantry

\*Place more than 250 individuals in jobs

\*Provide 200 bus passes to facilitate transportation to work

\*Connect 558 individuals to housing support services

Proposed metrics that will be collected include:

Outcomes: How many clients are still housed at 6 and 12 months

How many clients are employed at 6 and 12 months

How many clients have been connected to medical services and have a medical home

How many clients are stable (financial, housing, medical, etc.) at 6 and 12 months

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:**

SRP's grant support will support programmatic efforts including staffing that provides case management and referral services. No SRP funds will be used for the endowment.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** SRP would get acknowledgement as a founding member of the initiative which would include the following working in tandem with the SRP Marketing and Communications department. They include:

- \*Social Media placement throughout the year
- \*PR/ Media -- press release and PR pushes
- \*Placement on CPLC website
- \*Additional benefits can be discussed that are of interest to SRP

**Other Sources of Funding:** Currently, Banner, AZ Complete Health, UnitedHealthcare, and APS have all expressed interest and all have their legal departments reviewing the agreement.

**Similar Organizations:** CPLC's approach to supporting Health and Housing through the Eviction Prevention fund is a new concept. Many other organizations are tackling health and housing through a singular method or approach. CPLC feels this braided response in tandem with funder/ partners interested in supporting this endeavor is new within Arizona.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Juana Hernandez, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

## Internal Comments

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for programmatic efforts including staffing that provides case management and referral services. No SRP funds will be used for the endowment (\$75,000).

## Attachments

**Annual Reports:**

**In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**

- Current Year Budget:** FY26 CPLC Budget.pdf
- Last Year's Budget:** FY25 CPLC Income Statement.pdf
- Program Budget:** CPLC - SRP Budget 12.8.2025.pdf
- Audited Financial Statements:** CPLC FY 24 Audited Financials.pdf
- Board of Directors Listing:** CPLC BoD List\_updated 03.13.25.pdf
- List of Corporate Contributors:** Top 5 funders for CPLC.pdf
- Additional Attachment (1):**
- Additional Attachment (2):**

**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**

- Number of Events:** 0
- Custom Report:**
- Event 1 Name - Approved:**
- Event 1 Date - Approved:**
- Event 2 Name - Approved:**
- Event 2 Date - Approved:**
- Event 3 Name - Approved:**
- Event 3 Date - Approved:**

**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

## Payment

## Scan

No matches were found

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$75,000.00

**\*Recommended Amount:**

**Prior Approved Grants:**

- 2013 - 2013 Esperanza Latino Teacher Awards - \$0.00
- 2014 - - \$25,000.00

- 2014 - CPLC & SRP Creating a Comfortable Lobby - \$10,000.00
- 2015 - - \$25,000.00
- 2015 - - \$3,500.00
- 2016 - - \$2,500.00
- 2016 - - \$25,000.00
- 2016 - - \$1,000.00
- 2017 - - \$25,000.00
- 2017 - - \$1,000.00
- 2019 - CPLC Sponsorship Request-Esperanza - \$25,000.00
- 2019 - Dollars for Doers Grant - \$1,000.00
- 2020 - CPLC's 50th Annual Dinner and Esperanza Latino Teacher Awards Sponsorship - \$25,000.00
- 2021 - COVID19 RESPONSE – EMERGENCY FUNDING - \$10,000.00
- 2021 - Forwarding the Cause 2020-21 - \$44,500.00
- 2021 - Hablamos SRP EIG Contribution - \$500.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$538.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,435.00
- 2022 - Hablamos ERG Contribution - \$1,000.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$764.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$2,289.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$536.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$536.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$538.00
- 2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$538.00
- 2022 - Esperanza for Arizona 2022 - \$54,000.00
- 2022 - Boosters Stipends - New Agencies & Luncheon Speakers - \$2,500.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,436.76
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,449.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$10.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,256.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,436.76
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$967.84
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2023 - CPLC 2023 Focus on Community, Career & Culture - \$70,000.00
- 2024 - Memorial Contribution: John Hoopes, SRP Vice President - \$5,000.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$875.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,333.76
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$875.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$915.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$895.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$915.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$915.84

- 2024 - CPLC Empowers the Future - \$70,000.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$915.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,070.84
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,373.76
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$957.84
- 2024 - Donate via Credit Card Grant - \$50.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$915.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,043.76
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,043.76
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - CPLC Senior and Events request - \$85,000.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$695.84
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$897.84
- 2025 - Donate via Credit Card Grant - \$50.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$860.84
- 2026 - CPLC Healthy Aging program and Events - \$85,000.00
- 2026 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,239.30
- 2026 - Donate via Credit Card Grant - \$50.00
- - -
- - - \$0.00

**Request Status:** Pending  
**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition  
**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist  
**Completed:** 2025-12-19  
**Result:** Defined  
**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend  
**Performed By:** Juana Hernandez / Sr. Representative Community Stewardship  
**Completed:** 2026-01-15  
**Result:** Recommended  
**Comments:** Approved. February Committee Meeting

Operating support for the CPLC Housing Endowment Programming (\$75,000 FY27-29).

**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval  
**Performed By:**  
**Completed:**  
**Result:**  
**Comments:**

## Contact

**Salutation:** Ms.  
**\*First Name:** Amanda

**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Bernal  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Development Director  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** (602)257-0700  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** amanda.bernal@cplc.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2017-12-12  
**Last Saved By:** knesparz  
**Last Saved Date:** 19-DEC-25 05.49.21.000000 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:** (623)451-0250  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Education  
**Official Name:** NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY FDN INC  
**\*Legal Name:** Northern Arizona University Foundation  
**\*Address:** PO BOX 4094  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** FLAGSTAFF  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 86011-0103  
**\*Main Telephone:** 928-523-2095  
**\*Main Email Address:** development@nau.edu  
**\*Website Address:** foundationnau.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Nick Lobejko  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 928-523-0090  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** Nick.Lobejko@nau.edu

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2026-01-08)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Education  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals-Native American Internship Program  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$65,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$65,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00  
**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** ITEP strengthens capacity and sovereignty in environmental and natural resource management through culturally relevant education, research, partnerships, and policy-based services.  
  
Annual Impact: ITEP delivers hundreds of training sessions annually, equipping professionals with skills in environmental management, air quality, climate resilience, and more.  
  
Through internships and educational programs, ITEP supports the development of the next generation of Native American environmental leaders. Our work encompasses collaborations with over 570 federally recognized tribes and many Tribal organizations, ensuring tailored solutions to meet community-specific needs.  
  
Geographic Impact: ITEP's impact extends across the United States, serving tribes in rural and urban settings. While its programs are national, ITEP places special emphasis on supporting tribes in Arizona and the Southwest, given their proximity and the unique challenges they face.  
  
ITEP is a vital resource for Native American communities. Addressing critical environmental and cultural priorities fosters resilience and sustainable stewardship of Tribal lands and resources.  
  
**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:**

ITEP's Native American Internship Program aligns closely with SRP's corporate giving goals. It directly addresses key priorities such as advancing STEM education, promoting workforce development, and supporting Native American communities. The program's hands-on internships equip Native American students with the technical skills, mentorship, and experience to address environmental and scientific challenges in their communities. Many of these challenges are directly relevant to SRP's focus on sustainability, resource management, and community development, making the program a valuable asset to the company's portfolio of giving.

Supporting the Native American Internship Program amplifies SRP's impact because it directly invests in underserved populations, fostering equity in education and workforce opportunities. By empowering Native students with targeted STEM experiences, SRP contributes to a pipeline of skilled professionals uniquely equipped to support Tribal and regional workforce development. This focused approach strengthens SRP's relationships with local Native American communities, highlighting its commitment to cultural and geographic inclusivity and reinforcing its corporate values.

**Project/Program Description:** ITEP's Native American Internship Program reflects NAU's commitment to experiential learning by offering Native American students the opportunity to gain hands-on experiences in water resources, land management, and environmental sustainability, respecting traditional ecological knowledge and bridging cultural heritage with contemporary science.

The program provides essential human resources to federal agencies like the EPA, USDA, and USGS, helping them achieve critical environmental, health, and technical objectives. In addition to these partnerships, the program collaborates with corporate host sites to address their goals, often aligning with environmental stewardship, corporate social responsibility, and workforce development priorities.

Rooted in ITEP's mission to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and capacity, the program offers to students and host sites:

- \* Internship Placement: Matching Native American undergraduate and graduate students with internships aligned with their academic and career goals.

- \* Experiential Learning: Providing real-world, project-based opportunities where students engage in meaningful work directly related to water and land management challenges within the Colorado River Basin and beyond.

- \* Cultural and Professional Mentorship: Offering tailored guidance to support students' development while honoring their unique cultural perspectives.

- \* Workforce Development: Equipping participants with practical skills and technical expertise to meet the workforce needs of Tribal governments and environmental agencies.

- \* Collaborative Partnerships: Working with host sites, including Tribal governments, NGOs, federal agencies, and corporations, to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes for students and stakeholders.

- \* Community Engagement: Companies engage with Tribal communities through internships, building stronger relationships and contributing to long-term societal impact.

- \* Talent Pipeline Development: By hosting interns, corporations access a pool of skilled and motivated individuals, some of whom may become future employees, enhancing their workforce with unique perspectives and expertise.

#### Program Goals

1. Career Pathway Creation: The program connects students with real-world opportunities that align with their academic and career aspirations, bridging the gap between education and employment.

2. Build a Skilled Tribal Workforce: Cultivate Native American professionals equipped to address critical environmental and natural resource challenges within their communities.

3. Cultural Competency and Leadership: Students develop leadership skills and the ability to integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern STEM practices, addressing unique challenges in Tribal and corporate contexts.

4. Economic Empowerment: The program fosters economic development within Tribal communities and beyond by equipping Native students with the tools to succeed.

5. Enhance STEM Representation: Increase Native American participation in STEM fields, focusing on environmental and resource management careers.

6. Address Environmental Challenges: With a culturally relevant and community-focused approach, target pressing issues such as water resource management, and land stewardship.

Through its collaborative approach, the ITEP Native American Internship Program meets the objectives of federal and corporate host sites while driving workforce development by preparing a new generation of Native American professionals to tackle critical environmental and resource management challenges.

**Program Metrics:** With additional funding from SRP, ITEP's Native American Internship Program will continue to expand current metrics to broaden the impact and reach. While the current program serves 22 Native American students annually through 12 summer internships and 10 academic-year placements, increased support could enable the following enhancements:

Demographics and Reach - Participants in the ITEP Native American Internship Program include Native American undergraduate and graduate students from diverse Tribal affiliations across the U.S., ensuring broad representation and impact. While the program emphasizes addressing pressing environmental challenges in the Colorado River Basin, its geographic scope extends to host sites throughout Arizona and beyond, reflecting a commitment to addressing environmental issues across various regions. Past host sites, such as the San Carlos Department of Water Resources, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Resources Department, the Hopi Tribe Department of Natural Resources, Dine College, and the Cocopah Tribe, demonstrate the program's dedication to placing interns in impactful roles in Tribal and regional communities, including areas served by SRP.

For the summer program, interns come from colleges and universities across the US to participate. In contrast, academic year interns are primarily from northern Arizona, which we will continue to expand to the Phoenix/Tucson region.

<https://itep.nau.edu/internships/>

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:** With additional funding from SRP, ITEP can significantly expand the program's reach and impact by:

\* Increasing Participation: We anticipate an approximate increase of the current cohort size from 22 to 26, providing internship opportunities for more students each year.

\* Enhancing Program Offerings: Additional funding could include specialized training, professional development and career readiness workshops, and mentorship programs that strengthen workforce readiness.

\* Expanding Geographic Impact: Increased resources would facilitate partnerships with a broader array of host sites, allowing placements in more cities and Tribal regions, further aligning with SRP's service area and goals.

\* Developing New Partnerships: SRP's involvement would attract additional host sites and collaborators, enriching the diversity of student internship opportunities.

\* Fostering Long-term Sustainability: SRP funding will support building a pipeline of Native American STEM professionals prepared to address critical water and land management challenges.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** Brand Visibility and Recognition

Logo Placement: SRP's logo prominently displayed on program materials, including internship announcements, program reports, and digital communications.

Social Media Features: Recognition of SRP's contribution in targeted social media posts through ITEP and NAU platforms.

Website Acknowledgment: Listing SRP as a key partner on ITEP's program webpage, with a direct link to SRP's corporate social responsibility page.

#### Community Engagement and Goodwill

Program Branding: Opportunities to showcase SRP's commitment to environmental stewardship, Native American communities, and workforce development in all program-related communications.

Press Releases: Inclusion in press releases and articles announcing the program's impact and SRP's sponsorship.

#### Workforce Development Opportunities

Future Talent Pipeline: Access to a pool of talented and STEM-trained Native American professionals who may contribute to SRP's workforce goals in the future.

#### Speaking and Networking Opportunities

Event Participation: Invitation for an SRP representative to speak at key program events, such as internship kickoff meetings or a year-end celebration.

Networking Access: Opportunities to connect with other stakeholders, including Tribal representatives, federal agencies, and corporate leaders involved in the program.

Annual Impact Report: Receive a detailed report summarizing SRP's impact, including the number of students served, program achievements, and testimonials from interns and host sites.

Customized Case Studies: Highlight stories of SRP-supported interns, showcasing the tangible impact of their work on water and land management issues.

#### Due Dates and Asset Specifications

Logo Submission - We have added SRP's logo to all website locations and program marketing.

**Other Sources of Funding:** Financial support is provided by:

Resolution Copper

Catena Foundation

ITEP actively seeks funding partners that align with its mission to enhance Tribal sovereignty, build a skilled Native American workforce, and address pressing environmental challenges. Additional support from organizations like SRP would enable the program to expand its impact and reach more students across diverse communities.

**Similar Organizations:** In supporting Native American students through internships focused on environmental sustainability, water resources, and land management, few organizations provide services as comprehensive as the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at NAU.

#### American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

AISES provides mentorship, networking, and internships for Native American students pursuing careers in STEM fields. Focused on STEM broadly but does not specialize in environmental or resource management internships.

#### Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

Institutions like Dine College and Haskell Indian Nations University offer internship opportunities connected to their academic programs. Primarily regional in focus, with limited national internship networks.

#### Federal Agencies with Native Initiatives

Agencies like the EPA, USDA, and USGS offer internships targeted at Native American students. These programs are often limited in scale and focus on agency priorities rather than Tribal-specific needs.

#### Environmental Non-Profits

Organizations like the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society provide some internship opportunities in environmental conservation. Tend to focus narrowly on specific ecosystems or issues.

What Differentiates ITEP:

**Culturally Responsive Approach:** ITEP uniquely combines modern STEM techniques with traditional ecological knowledge, ensuring Native American perspectives are integrated into environmental solutions.

**Long-Standing Expertise:** With over 30 years of experience, ITEP has established itself as a leader in Tribal capacity building and environmental education. It offers proven programs tailored to Tribal needs.

**Broad Network of Partners:** Collaborations with federal agencies, Tribal governments, NGOs, and corporations provide a wide array of placements that address both Tribal and environmental priorities.

**Focus on Tribal Sovereignty:** The program empowers students to address critical community challenges, aligning directly with Tribal goals and enhancing self-determination.

**National Impact with Local Focus:** While the program has a nationwide reach, it is deeply rooted in addressing issues specific to the Colorado River Basin and Arizona, areas of significant concern for regional stakeholders like SRP.

ITEP's holistic, culturally aligned, and impactful programming positions it as a valuable resource for fostering the next generation of Native American STEM professionals.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Kelli Rael, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

## Internal Comments

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals-Native American Internship (ITEP) Program (\$65,000).

## Attachments

**Annual Reports:**

**In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**

**Current Year Budget:** NAU Foundation Finance FY23\_FY24\_FY25.xlsx

**Last Year's Budget:** NAU Foundation Finance FY23\_FY24\_FY25.xlsx

**Program Budget:** ITEP.NAIP26.27.Budget Projection.010826.xlsx

**Audited Financial Statements:** FY24\_Audit\_fs\_NAUF.pdf

**Board of Directors Listing:** Advancement\_Foundation\_Board of Directors 08.24.25.docx

**List of Corporate Contributors:** SRP Grant Submission.docx

**Additional Attachment (1):**

**Additional Attachment (2):**

**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**

**Number of Events:** 0

**Custom Report:**

**Event 1 Name - Approved:**

**Event 1 Date - Approved:**

**Event 2 Name - Approved:**

**Event 2 Date - Approved:**

**Event 3 Name - Approved:**

**Event 3 Date - Approved:**

**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

## Payment

## Scan

No matches were found

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$65,000.00

**\*Recommended Amount:** \$65,000.00

**Prior Approved Grants:** •2019 - Fins & Fairways Sponsorship - \$2,500.00

•2020 - Tribal Environmental Education Outreach Program - \$75,000.00

•2024 - Tribal Economic Outlook Conference (TEOC) - \$5,000.00

•2025 - Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals-Native American Internship Program - \$50,000.00

**Request Status:** Pending

**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition

**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist

**Completed:** 2026-01-09

**Result:** Defined

**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend

**Performed By:** Kelli Rael / COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP REPRESENTATIVE SENIOR

**Completed:** 2026-01-13

**Result:** Recommended

**Comments:** Education budget \$65,000 - operating support for Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Internship program

**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval

**Performed By:**

**Completed:**

**Result:**

**Comments:**

## Contact

---

**Salutation:**

**\*First Name:** Amanda

**Middle Name:**

**\*Last Name:** Schmidt

**Vendor Number:**

**Title:** Director of Strategic Initiatives

**Title (CEO):**

**Address:**

**Address 2:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Province:**

**Country:**

**Zip/Postal Code:**

**Telephone:** (602) 298-4046

**Fax:**

**Email Address:** amanda.schmidt@nau.edu

**Contact Type:**

**Creation Date:** 2026-01-07

**Last Saved By:** 100000017777323

**Last Saved Date:** 07-JAN-26 02.11.17.486504 PM

**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

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**Salutation:** Ms.  
**\*First Name:** Shannon  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Bailey  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Executive Dir. Corporate and Foundation Relations  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 928-523-2012  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** Shannon.Bailey@nau.edu  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2025-12-09  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000017777323  
**Last Saved Date:** 09-DEC-25 03.02.41.406941 PM

**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Official Name:** ARIZONA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL  
**\*Legal Name:** Arizona Ecumenical Council dba Arizona Faith Network  
**\*Address:** PO Box 60953  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** Phoenix  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85082  
**\*Main Telephone:** 6024683818  
**\*Main Email Address:** contactus@azfaithnetwork.org  
**\*Website Address:** www.arizonafaitnetwork.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Rev. Katie Sexton  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 623-237-2279  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** Katie.Sexton@azfaithnetwork.org

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2025-12-18)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** Extreme Heat Relief Program  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00

**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** Arizona Faith Network (AFN) is a statewide, interfaith nonprofit that brings together more than 5,000 individuals, congregations, and faith leaders to advance community resilience, public health, and social well-being across Arizona. AFN serves as a trusted convener at the intersection of faith communities, nonprofits, and local government, with deep experience coordinating large-scale, faith-rooted responses to community crises.

AFN has led the Extreme Heat Relief Program for multiple years, operating and coordinating cooling and respite sites in SRP territory across Maricopa County and beyond. As extreme heat intensifies, AFN's role as a network hub, rather than a single-site operator, has become increasingly critical.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:** The 2026 Extreme Heat Relief Network advances SRP's corporate giving priorities by addressing critical community needs related to public health, safety, and basic well-being during Arizona's most extreme heat conditions. Extreme heat remains the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the region, and coordinated access to cooling and hydration is a proven, life-saving intervention.

SRP's investment supports the network infrastructure that allows faith-based cooling and respite sites within SRP service areas to operate safely, consistently, and in coordination with regional response systems. By strengthening communication, shared standards, and training across sites, this program maximizes the effectiveness of community-based cooling resources while reducing strain on emergency services.

This partnership reflects SRP's commitment to strategic, community-driven solutions that promote resilience, equity, and sustainability. Supporting network coordination ensures that trusted neighborhood institutions can respond effectively to extreme heat, delivering measurable public health impact and lasting community benefit across the Valley.

**Project/Program Description:**

In 2026, Arizona Faith Network (AFN) coordinates a network of faith-based heat relief sites located within SRP service areas. These sites provide safe, welcoming spaces where heat-vulnerable neighbors can access uninterrupted rest, hydration, and relief from extreme temperatures during the hottest months of the year.

The program supports trusted community locations, primarily houses of worship, that remain open and accessible during periods of excessive heat. By ensuring these sites can operate consistently throughout the heat season, the program prioritizes dignity, safety, and stability for individuals most at risk of heat-related illness, including people experiencing homelessness, seniors, and low-income residents.

In addition to providing immediate heat relief, sites help connect guests to community resources, including SRP-provided programs and assistance, as well as other local services that support energy stability, basic needs, and long-term well-being. The goal of the program is to maintain reliable, community-based heat relief spaces that protect public health during extreme heat events while strengthening community capacity to respond to increasingly dangerous temperatures.

**Program Metrics:**

During the 2026 heat season (May--September), Arizona Faith Network (AFN) expects to operate a coordinated network of faith-based heat relief sites across Maricopa County, based on 2025 utilization trends and capacity. Using 2025 data as a baseline, AFN anticipates serving approximately 50,000--60,000 total visits, representing an estimated 8,000--9,000 unique individuals seeking relief from extreme heat.

Sites will continue to operate in Phoenix, Glendale, and Tempe, with the highest volume of visits expected in central and west Valley neighborhoods most impacted by extreme heat, housing instability, and limited access to air conditioning. Peak usage is projected for July and August, with daily visits at larger sites exceeding 300 during Excessive Heat Warnings.

Demographic estimates for 2026 reflect consistent patterns observed in 2025. AFN anticipates that approximately 70--75% of guests will identify as male, 25--30% as female or another gender, and that nearly half of all guests will be age 55 or older, indicating elevated medical vulnerability. Based on prior years, AFN expects that more than 70% of guests will be experiencing homelessness, underscoring the program's critical role for individuals without access to stable indoor cooling.

AFN tracks program impact through daily, trauma-informed check-ins at each site, collecting data on the number of visits, reason for visit, age range, gender identity (optional), and heat-related risk factors. Transportation data is also monitored, with prior data showing that over 80% of guests walk to a site, reinforcing the importance of neighborhood-based access.

In addition to daily data collection, AFN gathers feedback through Welcome Check-In surveys, ongoing engagement with community leaders, and coordination with regional partners. AFN participates year-round in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Heat Relief Regional Network and Cooling Center Subgroup, in partnership with Arizona State University, to align metrics, share best practices, and strengthen system-wide response.

These metrics guide real-time adjustments during the heat season and inform long-term planning, ensuring that heat-vulnerable neighbors have reliable access to cooling, uninterrupted rest, and connections to community resources, including SRP-provided programs and assistance, throughout the most dangerous months of the year.

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:**

SRP funds will support Arizona Faith Network's efforts to operate faith-based heat relief sites located within SRP service areas, with a focus on congregations serving low-income and historically redlined communities. Grant funds will specifically help offset increased electricity costs associated with operating cooling spaces during the extreme heat season.

By reducing the financial burden of sustained air conditioning and facility use, SRP's support ensures that these heat relief sites can remain open, accessible, and safe during periods of excessive heat. This investment helps maintain uninterrupted access to cooling and rest for heat-vulnerable neighbors while strengthening community-based organizations' capacity to respond effectively throughout the heat season.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** SRP's sponsorship provides opportunities for community visibility and employee engagement aligned with its commitment to public health and safety. Benefits may include logo recognition on relevant AFN heat relief materials and communications, acknowledgement as a program partner, opportunities for staff volunteer engagement, and the ability to share information about SRP programs and assistance that support heat-vulnerable households.

**Other Sources of Funding:** AFN raises funds annually to sustain the Extreme Heat Relief Program through a diverse mix of partners. Support includes contributions from faith communities, regional denominations, local foundations, community foundations, charitable trusts, utility partners such as APS, and individual donors. This diversified funding base strengthens the program's long-term viability and allows AFN to continue expanding its reach and impact each year in response to growing community need.

**Similar Organizations:** Across Maricopa County, several organizations provide heat relief services, including municipal cooling centers, nonprofit day centers, shelters, libraries, and outreach programs operated by cities, counties, and social service agencies. These efforts play an important role in protecting public health during extreme heat events.

Arizona Faith Network is distinct in its ability to coordinate a distributed network of faith-based heat relief sites embedded directly within neighborhoods most impacted by extreme heat. Rather than operating a single facility, AFN mobilizes trusted houses of worship to expand access to cooling and uninterrupted rest across multiple communities. This model reduces barriers to access, extends geographic coverage, and allows sites to remain responsive to local needs.

AFN's statewide network, long-standing community relationships, and experience coordinating across faith communities, utilities, nonprofits, and public agencies enable the program to operate at scale while maintaining consistency, dignity, and safety across sites. This network-based approach complements existing services and strengthens the regional heat relief system as a whole.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Juana Hernandez, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

## Internal Comments

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for the Extreme Heat Relief Program (\$50,000).

## Attachments

### Annual Reports:

### In-Kind Supporting Documentation:

**Current Year Budget:** Board and Budget List for Grants - Budget.pdf

**Last Year's Budget:** 2024-25 APPROVED BUDGET - BUDGET .pdf

**Program Budget:** Project Budget.pdf

**Audited Financial Statements:** November 18th, 2025 AFN Board Meeting Packet.docx-3.pdf

**Board of Directors Listing:** Board List for Grant - Sheet1.pdf

**List of Corporate Contributors:** Corporate Contributors.pdf

**Additional Attachment (1):**

**Additional Attachment (2):**

**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**

**Number of Events:** 0

**Custom Report:**

**Event 1 Name - Approved:**

**Event 1 Date - Approved:**

**Event 2 Name - Approved:**

**Event 2 Date - Approved:**

**Event 3 Name - Approved:**

**Event 3 Date - Approved:**

Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?: No

## Payment

## Scan

No matches were found

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**\*Recommended Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**Prior Approved Grants:**

- 2021 - Extreme Heat Relief Cooling Stations - \$25,000.00
- 2022 - Equipment Donation: 250 CamelBaks - \$8,750.00
- 2022 - Pandemic Relief Support - \$10,000.00
- 2022 - Cooling Centers - Extreme Heat - \$25,000.00
- 2023 - Antibacterial Wipes - \$40.00
- 2023 - Extreme Heat Relief Cooling Centers - \$25,000.00
- 2024 - Heat Relief and Respite Project - \$25,000.00
- 2025 - Extreme Heat Relief and Respite - \$25,000.00
- 2025 - Extreme Heat Relief - \$50,000.00

**Request Status:** Pending  
**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition  
**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist  
**Completed:** 2025-12-19  
**Result:** Defined  
**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend  
**Performed By:** Juana Hernandez / Sr. Representative Community Stewardship  
**Completed:** 2026-01-15  
**Result:** Recommended  
**Comments:** Approved. February Committee Meeting  
  
Operating support for Extreme Heat Relief Program (\$50,000)  
**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval  
**Performed By:**  
**Completed:**  
**Result:**  
**Comments:**

## Contact

---

**Salutation:** Rev.  
**\*First Name:** Katie  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Sexton  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Executive Director  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**

**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 6024683818  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** katie.sexton@azfaithnetwork.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2024-04-22  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000011792911  
**Last Saved Date:** 22-APR-24 03.52.09.819868 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Official Name:** CENTRAL ARIZONA SHELTER SERVICES INC  
**\*Legal Name:** Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), Inc.  
**\*Address:** PO Box 18250  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** Phoenix  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85005  
**\*Main Telephone:** (602) 256-6945  
**\*Main Email Address:** grants@cassaz.org  
**\*Website Address:** www.cassaz.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Nathan Smith  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 602-256-6945  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** nsmith@cassaz.org

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2025-12-18)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** Sheltering Hope: Help Us Support 600 Neighbors in Need Each Night  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$35,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$35,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00

**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) has been Arizona's primary emergency shelter provider for over 40 years. Our mission is to prevent and end homelessness while promoting compassionate solutions, with a vision of a community where everyone has a home. Based in Maricopa County, CASS provides trauma-informed care, housing navigation, and wraparound services to over 4,500 individuals annually. Our programs stabilize lives by connecting individuals to housing, employment, healthcare, mental health services, and substance use treatment. As a licensed Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) counseling facility, CASS now bills Medicaid for eligible services, strengthening our long-term sustainability.

CASS operates three emergency shelters:

A 600-bed Single Adult Shelter in downtown Phoenix, the largest in Arizona, offering low-barrier, 24/7 emergency housing and support.

The Haven, Arizona's only dedicated senior emergency shelter, features 130 beds (some doubles), accommodating up to 170 seniors daily and nightly and operates in Phoenix.

Vista Colina Family Shelter in North Phoenix, a non-congregate facility serving up to 30 families or approximately 120 to 150 individuals every day and night.

Serving the entire Phoenix metropolitan area, CASS is working to fill service gaps and help thousands of people transform their lives through the provision of basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter). Through this approach, we build trust and opportunities for individuals to gain employment, secure housing, and be provided with a new chance to thrive.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:** Our goals fit directly with SRP's basic needs priority, which focuses on "providing food, shelter, safety and other essentials to help underserved communities become self-sufficient."

CASS provides wrap-around case management and supportive services to meet our clients' basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter), help them find employment, improve their socioeconomic opportunity, and move into stable and permanent housing. Our highly trained and experienced shelter and case management staff work with clients one-on-one to provide the critical support and resources necessary for them to stabilize themselves and end their homelessness permanently, including help obtaining housing, employment, childcare, benefits, mental health services, healthcare, substance abuse services, access to meals, transportation, and other resources based on individual need. We have also begun to offer more daily programming for our clients, including vocational training, financial literacy, and therapeutic art activities.

Homelessness has reached crisis levels in Arizona, and those experiencing homelessness continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and resulting inflationary economics. According to the 2025 Maricopa Regional Point-In-Time Homeless Count (PIT Count), unsheltered homelessness in Maricopa County increased by 3% from 2024 to 2025. (The real increase is likely higher due to inclement weather the night of the most recent count).

U.S. Census Data shows that 12.8% of Arizona residents live in poverty compared to 11.5% nationally. The Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity reports 22% of jobs in Arizona are low-wage and 25.2% of individuals meet the asset poverty rate, meaning many Arizonans are unable to make a living wage and/or have little to no financial cushion in the event of even one financial emergency.

**Project/Program Description:** Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) is respectfully requesting \$25,000 to support our Single Adult Shelter in addition to a \$10,000 sponsorship of our spring fundraiser, Beds and Breakfast. Our goal is to help every client move into a permanent housing solution. However, the CASS model also offers intensive engagement support, including case management and supportive services to stabilize clients, benefits assistance, addressing health care and/or disability needs, and helping clients find employment. Our main housing programs include Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Flexible Financial Assistance (FFA), supplemented by other services that include employment training, and assistance with finance and budgeting. When funding is available, clients also are provided with hygiene kits, clothing, and move-in kits. Finally, recreational activities are offered to help clients find further stability and support.

The only criterion to participate in our emergency housing programs is literal homelessness. Our emergency shelters operate 24/7 with minimal barriers to admission. Importantly, there are no requirements for sobriety, income, or pre-acceptance of offered services. However, if we are going to help people truly end their homelessness, engagement in-services is a crucial part of our model. CASS's case management staff know how to "meet people where they are," as well as how to successfully engage clients in the services and support they need. CASS staff members are trained in trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, de-escalation techniques, and best practice models of care in working with people experiencing homelessness. CASS's progressive engagement case management model delivers different levels of services and support depending on the needs of each client. Clients can begin working with case managers from the moment they complete their shelter intake, and walk-in case management services are available seven days a week. Clients who have more acute barriers can schedule one-on-one appointments to meet with a qualified case manager. Case managers use motivational interviewing to help clients identify their barriers, strengths, and housing goals, which are compiled in a housing case plan during their first appointment. Case managers also help clients build resiliency and self-sufficiency by obtaining needed benefits, employment, job training, and permanent housing.

The Single Adult Shelter (SAS) is Arizona's largest emergency shelter, providing 600 nightly beds and serving approximately 3,500 adults each year. More than 56% of SAS residents report a disabling condition, reflecting high needs for health and housing supports. Funding will help to sustain Navigators, Client Advocates, and Case Managers who stabilize individuals through intake, daily advocacy, and individualized housing-focused case planning. Staff help clients secure identification, benefits, and healthcare, address behavioral health needs, and connect to employment and permanent housing. Outcomes include improved stability, barrier resolution, and safe exits from homelessness.

**Program Metrics:** During the grant cycle, CASS anticipates serving a minimum of 3,500 individuals at its Single Adult Shelter. Additionally, during the grant term, we anticipate the following metrics will be achieved:

100% (3,500) of clients will have access to services such as mental and physical health education, employment services and training, community building opportunities, and assistance with finances and budgeting.

100% (3,500) of clients will create an initial housing case plan within 72 hours of entering shelter

100% (3,500) of clients will be provided with safe shelter and access to 24/7 facilities. As a member of the Maricopa CoC, CASS enters all client data and progress into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). CASS uses HMIS to track information including bed nights and length of stay, participation in case management, walk-in case management interactions, and bus passes received.

To measure program effectiveness, CASS uses the HMIS SAP outcome reports and other available reports to compare and evaluate the proposed outputs and outcomes with the actuals. This data is used in combination with qualitative data from the case management team to inform program design, adjust to any changing needs in the population overtime, and identify possible new collaborative partnerships that are needed. While the Single Adult Shelter is located within Maricopa County, the services provided are not only available for those people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County; instead, services are available to everyone across the state of Arizona.

Success can also be seen through the stories of the people we serve. People like Terry, a 61-year-old Air Force veteran who became homeless after suffering a stroke. Following his hospital discharge, he arrived at the CASS Single Adult Shelter after being evicted during his recovery. His stroke caused lasting impairments to his communication and memory, making independent living difficult. At CASS, Terry accessed vital Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) resources, but securing financial stability was a significant hurdle. Although Terry had a Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PFCU) account, he was unable to access his funds because he could not recall his phone number, address, or security questions. With no PFCU branches in Arizona, resolving the issue in person was not possible. After multiple failed attempts to assist him through customer service, Terry's CASS case manager escalated the problem to a senior executive at PFCU. Thanks to persistent advocacy, the executive reviewed Terry's situation, and access to his account was successfully restored.

Now stabilized at CASS's Senior Haven, Terry and his case manager are working to transfer his funds to a local bank and secure an affordable assisted living arrangement. His story highlights how CASS's trauma-informed, client-centered advocacy helps seniors overcome significant barriers to stability and regain their independence.

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:** The requested funding of \$25,000 will be used to provide emergency shelter and case management services to individuals experiencing homelessness across Arizona. Specifically, funds will be used to support direct programming costs to provide emergency shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, program supplies, security, rent, and program staff salaries to provide critical case management services. The CASS Single Adult Shelter operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, so services are provided on an ongoing basis. Funding will be used within a one-year time frame.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:** CASS will promote SRP's generosity in these ways:

1. On the CASS website, with the SRP logo and hyperlink to SRP's website.

2. On our growing social media platforms, where we currently have over 13,000 followers on Facebook, almost 3,000 on Twitter/X, and over 1,900 on Instagram.

We would love to discuss these and other options to ensure that our community knows SRP supports families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

**Other Sources of Funding:** CASS receives funding for the Single Adult Shelter from a number of diverse sources, including the following:

- City Revenue, \$1,600,000
- State Funding, \$185,333
- Federal (ARPA), \$158,000
- Bed Reserves, \$608,750
- In-Kind Support, \$345,500

**Similar Organizations:** CASS shelters operate within a collaborative model that maximizes resources and reduces duplication. SAS is located on the Key Campus and collaborates with 11 service providers that address health, behavioral health, food, and identification needs, ensuring clients receive comprehensive support through a single, coordinated plan. This approach reduces barriers, particularly for adults living with disabling conditions who cannot access services independently. Partnerships are embedded directly into daily shelter operations. Dr. Gregory Carr's clinical team provides weekly on-site behavioral health clinics, offering counseling and medication management. Circle the City and Trinity Integrated Care deliver routine health touchpoints, while Valleywise Health and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health provide medical and preventive care. The Homeless ID Project helps residents secure documentation essential for benefits and housing, and St. Vincent de Paul ensures consistent access to meals at other shelter sites. Together, these partners expand the reach of SAS staff, allowing Navigators, Client Advocates, and Case Managers to focus on stabilization and housing navigation. Looking ahead, CASS will continue to strengthen collaboration by coordinating case management more closely with municipal partners, working with healthcare providers to reduce preventable hospitalizations, and ensuring seamless referrals through the regional Homeless Management Information System and Coordinated Entry process. These steps will make it easier for those experiencing homelessness entering SAS to access the right mix of shelter, healthcare, and housing resources without duplication or gaps.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Juana Hernandez, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

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### Internal Comments

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for the emergency shelter and case management services to individuals experiencing homelessness across Arizona (\$25,000); and requesting sponsorship for the Beds and Breakfast (\$10,000) on April 10, 2026.

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### Attachments

- Annual Reports:**
- In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**
- Sponsorship Packet:** CASS Corporate Packet.pdf
- Current Year Budget:** CASS Organization Budget 25 - 26.pdf
- Last Year's Budget:** FY2025 Budget Board Approved.pdf
- Program Budget:** CASS - SAS Budget Breakdown .pdf
- Audited Financial Statements:** CASS 2023 - 24 and 2022 - 23 Audited Financial Statements.pdf
- Board of Directors Listing:** CASS Board 2025-26.pdf
- List of Corporate Contributors:** CASS Corporate Funders.pdf
- Additional Attachment (1):**
- Additional Attachment (2):**
- Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**
- Number of Events:** 1

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### Event One

**Event 1 Event Name:** Beds and Breakfast

**Event 1 Date:** 2026-04-10

**Event 1 Location :** Our 2026 Beds and Breakfast will be hosted at On Jackson Event Space, located at 245 E Jackson St, Phoenix, AZ 85004. On Jackson is a unique and versatile social and corporate event venue located in the urban heart of Phoenix. Just blocks from major public transportation routes and minutes from the airport, the historic building is nestled amidst the entertainment, sports, and technology hub of Downtown Phoenix's Warehouse District.

**Event 1 Number of Attendees:** 300

**Event 1 Cash Requested:** 10000

**Event 1 In-Kind Requested:** 0

**Event 1 Other Event Info:** CASS is pleased to announce our Honorary Chair for our 2026 Beds and Breakfast event hosted at On Jackson is Arizona District 28 State Representative Sarah Ligouri. We will be honoring US Representative for Arizona's 3rd District, Yassamin Ansari for her support of CASS and the community we serve. We are still working to confirm other speakers and honorees.

The event will be held on April 10, 2026 from 11am to 12:30pm. There will be a VIP reception before the event from 10:00am to 10:45am and registration will be from 10:30am to 11:00am. The program will start at 11:15am.

Program highlights include a video presentation with client testimonies, community awards presented by CASS, a silent auction, and a VIP Reception for Sponsors which includes the opportunity to meet our Chair and Honorees.

The Theme for this event is our organizational vision: "Envision a community where everyone has a home." We will hear from CASS Chief Executive Officer Nathan Smith on the work we are doing to serve people experiencing homelessness in our community and honor the supporters who make this work possible.

Other sponsors include Nationwide at \$10,000.

**SRP Volunteer Opportunities? 1:** Yes

**Event 1 Net Proceeds Previous Year:** \$60,000.00

**Event 1 Other Event Sponsors :** Yes

**Event 1 Other Sponsors and Dollar Amount:** Other sponsors include Nationwide at \$10,000.

**Event 1 Promo Booth:** Yes

**Custom Report:**

**Event 1 Name - Approved:**

**Event 1 Date - Approved:**

**Event 2 Name - Approved:**

**Event 2 Date - Approved:**

**Event 3 Name - Approved:**

**Event 3 Date - Approved:**

**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

## Payment

## Scan

Score	Scanned Entity	Match	WatchList Name	WatchList Detail
-------	----------------	-------	----------------	------------------

100%	Nathan Smith (Contact Full Name)	SMITH, NATHAN	Excluded Party List System (EPLS)	SMITH, NATHAN Listing: SMITH, NATHAN - Individual Reason: Reciprocal Address: CHURCH HILL TN 37642 USA Other: Active Date Other: Additional Comments Other: Excluding Agency Other: Excluding Program Other: Excluding Type Other: Termination Date
100%	Nathan Smith (Contact Full Name)	SMITH, NATHAN	OIG Exclusions	SMITH, NATHAN Listing: SMITH, NATHAN - Individual Address: 4307 CARTERS VALLEY ROAD CHURCH HILL TN 37642 Occupation: IND- LIC HC SERV PRO Occupation: PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN DOB: 1978-03-04 Incident: 1128a3

**Last Scanned By:** Karla Esparza

**Last Scanned Time:** 2025-12-19 12:31:09 EST

**Reason for scan:** Submission for Approval

Scan results accepted:

by Karla Esparza (System) on 2025-12-19 12:31:09 EST

Scan results automatically accepted by system based on previous acceptance by knesparz on 2025-12-19 12:30:10 EST

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$35,000.00

**\*Recommended Amount:** \$35,000.00

**Prior Approved Grants:** •2013 - Homeless shelter and supportive services - \$5,000.00

•2014 - - \$5,000.00

•2016 - - \$5,000.00

•2017 - - \$5,000.00

•2019 - Emergency Shelter and Services: Ending Homelessness One Life at a Time - \$5,000.00

•2020 - Emergency Shelter and Services: Ending Homelessness One Life at a Time - \$5,000.00

•2021 - Office Equipment Donation - \$1,320.00

•2021 - Homeless Shelter Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic - \$2,500.00

•2021 - Dinner for Dignity Digital Event - \$5,000.00

•2021 - Equipment Donation - 2 Printer - \$1,000.00

•2022 - Equipment Donation: 250 CamelBaks - \$8,750.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$91.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$51.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$152.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$34.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$34.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$34.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$34.00

•2022 - COVID-19 Relief Funds - \$2,500.00

•2022 - Shelter and Supportive Services for Our Community Members Experiencing Homelessness - \$5,000.00

•2022 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$34.00

- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$258.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$206.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$242.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$40.00
- 2023 - Shelter and Supportive Services for Our Community Members Experiencing Homelessness - \$10,000.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$258.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2023 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$237.38
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$192.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$288.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$192.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$229.69
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$192.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$207.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$237.38
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$237.38
- 2024 - Shelter and Supportive Services for Our Community Members Experiencing Homelessness - \$25,000.00
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$367.38
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$356.07
- 2024 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$172.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$216.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$216.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$144.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$192.00
- 2025 - Donate via Credit Card Grant - \$122.00
- 2025 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$1,344.00
- 2025 - Emergency Shelter Services at the Single Adult Shelter - \$25,000.00
- 2026 - Donate via Credit Card Grant - \$40.00
- 2026 - Payroll Deduction Grant - \$235.00
- - - \$0.00

**Request Status:** Pending  
**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition

**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist  
**Completed:** 2025-12-19  
**Result:** Defined  
**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend  
**Performed By:** Juana Hernandez / Sr. Representative Community Stewardship  
**Completed:** 2026-01-15  
**Result:** Recommended  
**Comments:** Approved. February Committee Meeting  
  
Operating support for Single Adult Shelter Services (\$35,000)  
**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval  
**Performed By:**  
**Completed:**  
**Result:**  
**Comments:**

## Contact

---

**Salutation:** Mr.  
**\*First Name:** Nathan  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Levinsky  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Government Relations Manager  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:** PO Box 18250  
**Address 2:**  
**City:** Phoenix  
**State:** Arizona  
**Province:**  
**Country:** United States  
**Zip/Postal Code:** 85005  
**Telephone:** (602)256-6945  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** nlevinsky@cassaz.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2024-10-23  
**Last Saved By:** 100000008428201  
**Last Saved Date:** 18-DEC-25 04.22.49.322471 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

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**Salutation:** Mr.

**\*First Name:** Nathan  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Smith  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Title (CEO):** CEO  
**Address:** PO Box 18250  
**Address 2:**  
**City:** Phoenix  
**State:** Arizona  
**Province:**  
**Country:** United States  
**Zip/Postal Code:** 85005  
**Telephone:** (602)256-6945  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** smith@cassaz.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2024-10-23  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000008428201  
**Last Saved Date:** 18-DEC-25 04.23.22.971632 PM  
**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

## Organization

**\*Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Official Name:** FOSTER360  
**\*Legal Name:** FOSTER360  
**\*Address:** 137 E UNIVERSITY DR  
**Address 2:**  
**\*City:** MESA  
**\*State:** Arizona  
**\*Zip/Postal Code:** 85201-5929  
**\*Main Telephone:** 480-834-2115  
**\*Main Email Address:** aliciak@foster360az.org  
**\*Website Address:** www.foster360.org  
**\*Executive Director Name:** Alicia Kenney  
**\*Executive Director Phone Number:** 480-834-2115  
**\*Executive Director Email Address:** aliciak@foster360az.org

## Proposal

**\*Request Owner:** Karla Esparza  
**Request Source:** External (Submitted 2025-12-12)  
**Proposal Type:** General Grant Application  
**\*Determination Status:** Scheduled for Committee  
**Strategy:**  
**Organization Category:** Basic Needs  
**Type of Request:** Annual  
**Purpose:** Operating Expenses  
**Project Title:** Foster360 Trauma Informed Housing Program  
**In-Kind Request?:** No  
**Request Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**Requested Cash Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**Cash Recommended:**  
**In-Kind Recommended:** \$0.00

**Describe Mission/Geographic Impact :** Established in 2018, Foster360 provides young adults aging out of the foster care system with safe housing, personalized coaching, brain injury support, educational reintegration, emotional healing, and access to carefully curated community partners.

Our mission is to break cycles of homelessness and adversity by equipping youth with the tools, education, and mindset needed to build stable, independent lives. We offer a trauma-informed, community-centered environment where young adults can regain their footing and chart a path forward.

We serve 18-24-year-olds in Maricopa County who have aged out of foster care and are experiencing, or are at high risk of, homelessness. Many have endured significant trauma, faced untreated mental health challenges, and lacked stable housing, education, employment, and family support systems, leaving them vulnerable to crisis and long-term instability.

To address these inequities, Foster360 focuses on core Social Determinants of Health: providing stable housing; trauma-informed care; mental health services, including art therapy through The Well; and access to physical, speech, and occupational therapy through Barrow Neurological Institute. Education and employment coaching further strengthens wellbeing and long-term self-sufficiency. By meeting immediate needs while addressing root causes, we improve mental health, reduce anxiety, and support better academic and employment outcomes.

Each year, nearly 900 youth in Arizona age out of foster care, with a large concentration in Maricopa County, an area facing some of the state's most severe rates of youth housing insecurity. Without adequate support, these young adults encounter staggering risks:

- \* 50% become homeless within two years
- \* 1 in 3 are sex trafficked
- \* 71% of young women become pregnant by age 21
- \* Fewer than 3% pursue or complete higher education
- \* 65% of the chronically homeless population experienced foster care

These numbers represent real young people in our communities who urgently need transitional housing and coordinated support.

Foster360 responds to this crisis with a comprehensive, youth-centered model that provides stability, case management, life-skills coaching, education and employment support, and healing-centered services. As the need grows, more young adults age out directly into homelessness and vulnerability; overwhelming systems not designed to support them.

**Program/Project tie to SRP Goals:**

With additional funding, expanded partnerships, and stronger community engagement, Foster360 can reach more youth across Maricopa County and interrupt cycles of trauma and poverty and replace them with opportunity, healing, and long-term stability. Foster360 directly supports SRP's commitment to addressing basic needs by ensuring that youth aging out of the foster care system have access to the essential resources required for stability and safety. When young adults exit foster care, they often do so without secure housing, consistent nutrition, supportive services, or pathways to education and employment, putting them at immediate risk of homelessness and long-term instability.

Foster360 fills this critical gap by providing the foundational basic need of safe, stable housing paired with structured, trauma-informed programming. Through this combination, youth receive not only shelter but also access to food resources, life-skills coaching, mental health support, and education and employment guidance. Together, these services prevent homelessness, reduce crisis involvement, and create a stable platform from which young adults can build healthy, independent futures.

**Project/Program Description:**

By meeting these essential needs at a pivotal moment, Foster360 advances SRP's goal of strengthening community wellbeing and ensuring that vulnerable populations have the support necessary to thrive. Foster360 provides young adults aging out of foster care with the stability and support they need to transition successfully into adulthood. The program centers on affordable, secure housing paired with coordinated services that give each youth a strong foundation for long-term independence.

Our model emphasizes individualized care. Each participant works with a dedicated case manager to identify goals, build essential life skills, and access the resources most relevant to their needs. Core program components include:

- 1) Safe, stable housing
- 2) Individualized case management
- 3) Support for returning to school or completing a credential
- 4) Career development and employment preparation
- 5) Trauma-informed mental health support
- 6) Therapeutic services, including speech, occupational, or physical therapy for youth with traumatic brain injuries
- 7) Access to specialized community partners who enhance wellness, creativity, and personal development

This comprehensive structure creates an environment where healing, growth, and self-sufficiency can take root. By reducing barriers such as rising housing costs, lack of adult guidance, or unaddressed trauma, the program enables youth to focus on rebuilding their lives and working toward meaningful goals.

Foster360's goal is not only to meet immediate needs but to prevent future homelessness by equipping participants with the stability and skills required to thrive. Youth move through the program with individualized plans that emphasize healing, education, employment, and community connection, ensuring they are prepared for long-term success.

#### Program Outcomes

- 1) 12 youth will receive stable housing and access to comprehensive wraparound services, life-skills development, and education/workforce support
- 2) 100% of participating youth will maintain housing stability for 12 months
- 3) 100% will engage in therapeutic services, such as art, physical, or speech therapy

Foster360 provides more than services; it creates a pathway to a secure, self-directed future.

#### **Program Metrics:** Individuals Served

- \* 12 young adults will be housed and supported through the program annually
- \* 100% will receive wraparound services including case management, education/employment support, and life-skills programming
- \* 100% will access therapeutic services (art, music, physical, speech, or occupational therapy) through partner organizations

#### Demographics

Age Range: 18-24

Gender: 40% female, 60% male

#### Race/Ethnicity:

- \* 50% Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)
- \* 30% Latino/Hispanic
- \* 10% White
- \* 10% Multiracial

#### Special Circumstances:

- \* 20-30% with diagnosed or suspected Traumatic Brain Injury
- \* High prevalence of untreated trauma, anxiety, depression, and disrupted education
- \* Majority enter with little or no income and no stable housing

#### Geographic Reach

Foster360 primarily serves young adults across Maricopa County, with youth coming from:

- \* Phoenix
- \* Mesa
- \* Tempe
- \* Chandler
- \* Glendale
- \* Scottsdale
- \* Gilbert

Youth may enter from anywhere in Arizona's foster care system, but the program's services and housing are concentrated in the east-valley Maricopa County.

Since launching its trauma-informed housing program, Foster360 has demonstrated measurable and lasting impact on the young adults it serves:

- \* Two youth have earned their GED
- \* One additional youth is working towards their high school diploma
- \* Three youth are currently enrolled in post-secondary education
- \* One youth has completed a career certificate program
- \* One youth participates in an apprenticeship program
- \* Two youth have successfully graduated from the full Foster360 program within 12 months

These outcomes reflect the strength of Foster360's individualized approach and will continue to grow as new partnerships expand the resources available to participants.

Over the next decade, Foster360 anticipates providing stable housing to at least 100 young adults who have aged out of foster care and are experiencing homelessness.

By addressing trauma, building essential life skills, and creating a clear pathway to stability, Foster360 increases the likelihood that youth will remain employed and maintain long-term housing, significantly reducing their risk of future crisis involvement. With an estimated \$44,300 in annual public costs associated with each chronically homeless individual, the program's proactive, trauma-informed model not only transforms lives but also generates substantial economic savings for Maricopa County and the wider community.

**Intended Use of SRP Funds:**

The requested \$50,000 will support the core activities that allow Foster360 to provide safe, stable housing and individualized care for youth aging out of foster care. Funds will be used to complete comprehensive intake assessments, including trauma screening, behavioral health evaluations, and personalized goal-setting sessions. This process ensures that each young adult receives a tailored plan of care that aligns with their immediate needs and long-term aspirations. The request will also help maintain and operate the transitional housing units by contributing to rent, utilities, maintenance, and on-site staff support. Having consistent and trauma-informed housing creates a critical foundation that allows youth to focus on healing, education, and employment rather than survival.

Funding will also strengthen Foster360's therapeutic and case management services. This includes individual and group mental health counseling, trauma recovery support, and specialized therapeutic services such as art therapy, and occupational, physical, or speech therapy for youth with traumatic brain injuries. Additionally, the request will sustain life-skills coaching and educational and employment assistance. Youth receive support with school re-engagement, GED preparation, resume building, interview practice, and job placement. Weekly case management sessions help participants build essential skills such as budgeting, communication, time management, and self-advocacy.

Finally, the request provides critical resources for transportation and basic needs. Rideshare vouchers ensure that youth can attend medical and therapy appointments, job interviews, classes, and other required activities. Many participants enter the program with very few belongings, so a portion of the funding will help provide clothing, groceries, hygiene products, bedding, and supplies needed for school or employment. Meeting these essential needs fosters dignity and stability and allows participants to fully engage in the program. Together, these activities represent a vital portion of the program's total budget of \$331,735 and ensure that young adults have the support necessary to build safe, independent, and successful futures.

**SRP Sponsorship Benefits:**

SRP will receive meaningful recognition and visibility for this grant through several channels. Foster360 will acknowledge SRP in its annual report, website, newsletters, and/or across social media platforms. SRP may also be recognized at community events, program milestones, or donor appreciation gatherings. Regular impact reports will be provided, offering insights into the outcomes of SRP's support and content suitable for SRP's own communications.

**Other Sources of Funding:**

**Similar Organizations:**

Foster360 has a comprehensive fundraising strategy which includes securing funding from corporations, foundations, and individual giving. Past funders include Cigna, Cox Charities, Mayo Family Foundation, and, of course, SRP. We are focused on growing our funding base in an effort to expand program capacity. Maricopa County has several organizations that offer some level of support to youth transitioning out of foster care, including Thrive Arizona, Foster Arizona, Child Crisis Arizona's Halle House, and Ohana Programs. These organizations provide important services such as transitional housing, life-skills training, and connections to education or employment. While each plays a valuable role in supporting young adults, their models generally focus on short-term housing and traditional expectations that youth immediately engage in work or school.

Foster360 stands apart because its approach is built around addressing the underlying causes of homelessness, particularly the impact of chronic trauma and traumatic brain injuries. Rather than rushing youth into employment or education before they are emotionally or cognitively ready, Foster360 offers a dedicated rest and recovery period. During this time, participants are not required to work or attend school. Instead, they meet consistently with trauma-informed staff and, when needed, engage in licensed professional individual therapy, and also have access to specialized therapeutic services such as speech, occupational, or physical therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury. This intentional space allows youth to calm their nervous systems, build executive functioning skills, and transition out of survival mode, creating a far stronger foundation for long-term success.

Another key difference is the program's length and depth of support. While most transitional programs offer housing for 12 to 18 months, Foster360 allows youth to stay for up to two years. This extended timeframe acknowledges the realities of healing from lifelong instability and provides enough time for youth to complete certifications, develop consistent employment, and build the skills necessary to maintain stable housing permanently. By combining long-term housing with trauma recovery, individualized case management, and comprehensive wraparound services, Foster360 offers a uniquely holistic model that prepares young adults not just to stabilize, but to truly thrive and avoid homelessness for life.

**Letter Signer & Title:** Juana Hernandez, Community Stewardship Representative Sr.

**Internal Comments**

**Internal Comments:** Requesting operating support for the Foster360 Trauma Informed Housing Program (\$50,000).

**Attachments**

**Annual Reports:**

**In-Kind Supporting Documentation:**

**Current Year Budget:** F360 Organizational Budget FY25-26.pdf

**Last Year's Budget:** F360 Organizational Budget FY24-25.pdf

**Program Budget:** F360 Organizational Budget FY25-26.pdf

**Audited Financial Statements:** 2024 FINAL Audit-Combined MUW and Azura.pdf

**Board of Directors Listing:** F360 Board of Directors.pdf

**List of Corporate Contributors:** F360 Corporate Funders FY25-26 as of 11.25.25.pdf

**Additional Attachment (1):**

**Additional Attachment (2):**

**Signed Letter & Non PO Payment Form:**

**Number of Events:** 0

**Custom Report:**

**Event 1 Name - Approved:**

**Event 1 Date - Approved:**

**Event 2 Name - Approved:**

**Event 2 Date - Approved:**

**Event 3 Name - Approved:**

**Event 3 Date - Approved:**

**Is your payee information different than your organization information that was previously provided?:** No

## Payment

## Scan

No matches were found

## Approval

**Requested Amount:** \$50,000.00  
**\*Recommended Amount:** \$35,000.00  
**Prior Approved Grants:**  
**Request Status:** Pending  
**Approval Step 1:** Owner Step Definition  
**Performed By:** Karla Esparza / Community Engagement Strategist  
**Completed:** 2025-12-19  
**Result:** Defined  
**Approval Step 2:** Recommend / Do Not Recommend  
**Performed By:** Juana Hernandez / Sr. Representative Community Stewardship  
**Completed:** 2026-01-15  
**Result:** Recommended  
**Comments:** Approved. February Committee Meeting  
  
Operating support for Foster360 Housing Program (\$35,000)  
**Approval Step 3:** Request Owner Approval  
**Performed By:**  
**Completed:**  
**Result:**  
**Comments:**

## Contact

---

**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Alicia  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Kenney  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Executive Director  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 480-834-2115  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** aliciak@foster360az.org  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2025-10-31  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000013333325  
**Last Saved Date:** 31-OCT-25 02.03.45.390388 PM  
**Notes:**

**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**

---

**Salutation:**  
**\*First Name:** Linda  
**Middle Name:**  
**\*Last Name:** Lopez  
**Vendor Number:**  
**Title:** Senior Grants Consultant  
**Title (CEO):**  
**Address:**  
**Address 2:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Province:**  
**Country:**  
**Zip/Postal Code:**  
**Telephone:** 602-300-8195  
**Fax:**  
**Email Address:** linda@bearfruit.co  
**Contact Type:**  
**Creation Date:** 2025-10-31  
**Last Saved By:** 1000000013333325  
**Last Saved Date:** 19-NOV-25 05.19.26.028219 PM

**Notes:**  
**\*Internal Use Only?:** N  
**CEO First Name:**  
**Principal Prefix:**  
**CEO Last Name:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO Email Address:**  
**CEO Phone:**  
**CEO Mobile Phone:**  
**CEO/Executive Director Contact:**  
**Person completing application:**