

Quarterly Update

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GOVERNOR'S HOUSING CONFERENCE



The Arizona Department of Housing is hosting the annual Governor's Housing Forum in Tucson on September 6-8 at El Conquistador Resort. The theme of this year's forum is Housing: The Bigger Picture. Sessions will focus on the quality and quantity of housing, the availability of housing, and most importantly, the price of housing. Featured speakers include nationally-recognized authors, researchers, and practitioners.

PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATES

The Senate Appropriations Committee ratified the earlier action of its Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee and approved H.R. 5576, the FY 2007 HUD appropriations bill. The bill funds Community Development Block Grant formula grants at \$3.88 billion roughly the same as the amount included in the House-passed version of H.R. 5576 or \$3.87 billion. The total for the Community Development Fund is \$4.22 billion. Included in that figure and in addition to the formula amount are \$250 million for project-specific Economic Development Initiative grants (to be shared equally with the House), \$58 million for Indian tribes, and \$30 million for neighborhood initiatives aimed at revitalizing distressed and blighted neighborhoods. The House included \$57.4 million for Indian tribes and \$20 million for neighborhood initiatives.

The Committee Report accompanying the bill noted that:

"The Administration has proposed to reform and drastically reduce funding for CDBG by \$1.18 billion or 28%. The Committee recognizes that adequately funding the CDBG program is essential for HUD to meet its core mission in addressing State and local community needs for low-and moderate-income residents across the Nation. While some reforms may be warranted, the reforms presented by the Administration are very controversial."

The HOME program is funded at \$1.92 billion, the same as the House funding level. Included is \$1.83 billion in formula grants, a \$130 million increase over this year, \$25 million for the American Dream Downpayment Initiative, \$9 million for technical assistance, and \$3.4 million for HUD's information technology systems.

Homeless housing programs are funded at \$1.511 billion, down from the \$1.54 billion included in the House bill and requested by the President. Funds used for services must be matched 25%, 30% of the funds must be used for permanent housing for the homeless, and all expiring rent subsidy contracts are renewed for the Supportive Housing and Shelter plus Care programs.

Floor action for the bill in the Senate has not been scheduled. There is a lot of speculation that it will be wrapped into an omnibus bill after the election.

Affordable Housing and Community Planning

CURLEY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CELEBRATION



Gary Bachman addressing the audience as Governor Janet Napolitano looks on.

The Curley School Celebration took place on June 22, 2006 in Ajo and served as a groundbreaking ceremony with Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano in attendance to congratulate the many people who made the Curley School project a reality.

“Lorraine Marquez Eiler [former ISDA President and Board Member] of the Alliance welcomed those attending in English, Spanish, and O’odham before introducing Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson, the master of ceremonies. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by local young people, Vivian Juan-Saunders, chairwoman of the Tohono O’odham Nation spoke, followed by Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano. Gifts were presented to the dignitaries, which included a western hard hat given to the Governor by Sharon Bronson. (Ajo Copper News, 2006)

Curley School, originally built in 1919, will offer artisans' lofts as well as community meeting rooms, classrooms, an auditorium, gymnasium, art gallery, computer lab, and enterprise center once the buildings are restored. The effort is spearheaded by the International Sonoran Desert Alliance, a tri-national non-profit organization based in Ajo and also working in Sonora, Mexico, and on the Tohono O’odham Nation.” (Ajo Copper News, 2006)

CDNC arranged for two vans to take interested parties to Ajo for the celebration and tours. Gary Bachman was asked to speak about CDNC’s role in the development of the school project. To date over \$10 million has gone into the renovation of Curley School with over \$8 million coming from local, state and federal government sources. Numerous organizations have provided monetary support to the project. Curley School is expected to be open to artists in late 2006, with a complete restoration finished in early 2007. For more information, please visit www.curleyschool.com or contact ISDA at 520-387-6823.

\$15 MILLION IN MORTGAGE FUNDS AT 5.97% AVAILABLE TO FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Low-interest mortgages and other benefits for first-time homebuyers are offered in a new 2006 Mortgage Revenue Bond Program that was unveiled Monday, August 7, at 10 a.m. on the first floor of the Pima County Administration Building. The program will assist borrowers who do not have the cash resources for down payment and closing costs required to buy a home.

In addition to low-interest mortgages – 30-year loans at a fixed 5.97 % interest rate – the program provides for a second 30 year fixed 7% interest rate mortgage loan for those who do not have liquid resources for down payment and closing costs.

The 2006 Mortgage Revenue Bond Program is a collaborative effort of the Industrial Development Authorities of Pima County and the City of Tucson. Mortgage loans in this program are available through participating lenders and can be used on homes valued up to \$284,033 throughout Pima County. More information is available from Family Housing Resources, a non-profit organization that provides assistance with obtaining affordable housing to low and moderate-income families, at www.familyhousingresources.com by calling (520) 318-0993.

ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING CAMPAIGN

The goal of the Anti-Predatory Lending Campaign is to reduce the number of people succumbing to predatory loan practices in Pima County. The historical presence of predatory lending practices in Pima County has been exacerbated by the recent increase in short-term loan centers and home mortgage financing scams. In response to this threat, a diverse group of agencies and community associations have come together to combat abusive, unscrupulous lending in our communities. The four major components of the campaign include: outreach, education, resource coordination, and alternative financing development and coordination. To date \$52,000 has been committed to the campaign from Freddie Mac, Pima County, United Way, and Hughes Federal Credit Union. For more information, please contact Betty Villegas at 520-243-6777.

The **I’m Home** grant proposal has been approved by the State of Arizona! For more information, please refer to the Spring Newsletter.

Community and Rural Development

OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING *

The Pima County Board of Supervisors approved Outside Agency funding at their July 11, 2006 board meeting. The FY 06-07 funding process was different from past years in that the agencies were divided into six different service categories and participated in round-table sessions. The Outside Agency Advisory Committee made funding recommendations in the amount of \$2,010,090, the Outside Agency base budget, as well as \$271,800 in supplemental funding recommendations. Of the total amount funded, \$504,000 went towards 21 new programs not previously funded by the Outside Agency Program. For a complete list of FY 06-07 funded agencies, please visit the website at:

www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC/CRD/outsideAg.html

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW DATABASE *



CDNC has been working with the IT department to complete a web-based reporting system to capture quarterly and annual reports for grantees of Outside Agency, Emergency Shelter Grant, and Community Development Block Grant (excluding construction and infrastructure projects). The database is in the final stages of development and will be available to capture the first quarter reports of FY 06-07. The new system will be beneficial and timesaving to both grantees and department staff. With the new system, CDNC will be able to run reports Summarizing information to aid in reporting (Annual Action Plan, CAPER, etc.), as well as having a centralized place for data for the years to come. OA and ESG grantees have received a glimpse of the new system, and initial feedback was very positive and enthusiastic.

THANK YOU CECILIA NOPERI! *

Cecilia Noperi recently left the CDNC Department after nine years. Ceci started as our receptionist. She was quickly promoted to Administrative Support Specialist for the Outside Agency Program. Ceci will be missed by us all. We wish her luck in her new position with the Pima Vocational High School.

Story Highlight: HOME REPAIR PROGRAM *

One of the many CDNC programs is Home Repair, which provides assistance to rural Pima County residents in need of home maintenance and upkeep. All services are provided by contracted professionals, with oversight by Pima County Home Repair staff. Eligible projects include: roof repair, heating and cooling repair/replacement, septic system repair/replacement, weatherization, rehabilitation, and emergency repair services.

One of the most recent benefactors of the Home Repair Program is Maria. She contacted the program because her kitchen sink had leaked and rotted the surrounding floor area. Based on a site visit from County staff, it was determined that floor replacement was not the only service she was eligible for. She received a new heating return system in order for multiple rooms to receive warmth during the winter months. In addition, a new roof was provided for greater heating/cooling efficiency, all of the vents were cleaned, the front entry was reframed, new doors were provided, and cracked seals were restored in order to eliminate dust and also increase heating/cooling efficiency.

Maria said that she had no idea of the potential danger that surrounded her. As her home was repaired, she found out that the roof and floor each had the potential of collapsing. One of the best features of the Home Repair Program was that the contractors took time to explain all of the work step-by-step to Maria so that she would feel comfortable with the work being done on her home. The contractors also took time each day to organize their materials so that Maria could have maximum mobility without any fear of tripping over unfamiliar objects in and around her home.

Maria is very pleased with the work that was done on her home. She says she feels safer in her home and she was very pleased with CDNC's Jesus Duran, who assisted her throughout the process. Maria said that she had nowhere else to turn. The County has much needed services for low-income people and it was a relief to be accepted for the program because her only other option was to buy a new trailer; something that would have caused a major financial hardship. Maria is also extremely grateful that she no longer has to worry about monsoon season, "Before the repairs were made I was praying that it would not rain even though it was much needed. Now that I have a solid roof over my head, I don't have to worry!"

Neighborhood Reinvestment Program

MANSFIELD PARK

Project Funding:

Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment:
\$150,000
City of Tucson 2000 Bond Funds: \$20,000

Playground Dedication:



The Mansfield Park Playground Dedication took place on April 1, 2006. The nearly \$75,000 playground project funded through P i m a C o u n t y

Neighborhood Reinvestment (\$57,973) and the City of Tucson (\$16,845), includes various play structures, benches, picnic tables and drinking fountain. The playground was the final portion of a larger \$170,000 park improvement project which included a previously completed bike/pedestrian pathway.

Above: Park ribbon cutting

Right: Children take time for a photo while enjoying the new park facilities.



CARDINAL TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The tree planting project was a collaboration between the Cardinal Neighborhood Association, the Office of Chairman Elías (D5), Omega Delta Phi, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Trees For Tucson, and CDNC's Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. The event took place on May 6, 2006 at the Ebonee Marie Moody Neighborhood Park (formally Cardinal Park). Trees for Tucson donated five trees to members of the Omega Delta Phi Fraternity from the University of Arizona. The university students worked with the County and neighborhood representatives to develop this project, which has encouraged neighborhood residents to plant additional trees in the following months.



Projects to be voted on August 25, 2006:

- * *Jefferson Park Neighborhood*—sidewalks/traffic mitigation
- * *Marana Vista Neighborhood*—public safety enhancements
- * *Robles Junction Community*—recreation facilities

MILAGRO PARK:

A Playground for Children of All Abilities

Milagro Park was designed to create a fully integrated, universally accessible playground where children with physical, sensory, and developmental disabilities can play freely with siblings, friends, and peers without disabilities. Thanks to the collaboration of the Tucson Rotary, City of Tucson and Pima County Reinvestment (District 3) children and adults can enjoy the state of the art facility located at Jacob Park.



An aerial view of the entire playground.



Families enjoy one of the special sitting areas.

RIVER VIEW PARK

This park project was initiated by the El Rio Neighborhood Association with funding from Pima County and began as part of the larger neighborhood street improvement project. The additions to the park include new equipment and enhancements to existing facilities. The design and installation included a new play area with safety surfacing, a new ramada with picnic tables, barbecue and drinking fountain and resurfacing of the existing basketball court. New irrigation and concrete pathways connect the new features. Tucson Department of Transportation installed new park lighting. Artwork, in the form of an eight-foot tall bell by sculptor Kevin Caron, was selected through the Tucson Pima Arts Council and the Percent for Art Program. The Project Dedication took place on May 20, 2006.



Top row: City of Tucson PIO Richard Symchak, District 5 Supervisor Richard Elías *Bottom row:* NRP Rep. Lori Aldecoa, Neighborhood President Jim Hanney, and D. 5 staffer Andrea Altamirano

CDBG Projects: Rural Fire Departments

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for many projects throughout Pima County. Among the agencies funded by CDBG are several of the County's fire departments. The CDBG funds are critical since many of the projects could not be completed without the funding. The funds are used to upgrade the facilities and improve the provision of public services. Below is a brief descriptions of some of the fire department projects funded by CDBG:

Avra Valley Fire Department



The Avra Valley Fire Department used funding to purchase two new heart monitors/defibrillators for the community. The new units are equipped with the latest technology and have been placed on the department's Advanced Life Support Ambulances. The project has had a huge impact on the community. The heart monitors are used on a daily basis to assist people with heart conditions, as well as people with diabetes problems.

Left: A volunteer tries out the new equipment in front of the Fire District Ambulance.

Ajo Volunteer Fire Department

The Ajo Volunteer Fire Department was able to purchase a new Breathing Air Refill Station (similar to the one pictured) with CDBG funding. The new station will replace the current station, which was installed in 1979. The newer model has the capacity to fill over twice the number of breathing air bottles than the older station. The project will improve community safety and assist the department's firefighters, who often have to drive 35 miles to the Tohono O'odham Nation in order to fill up bottles.

Corona de Tucson

The Corona de Tucson Fire Department installed new fire hydrants throughout the community with the help of CDBG funds. The department first surveyed the area to determine where hydrants were most needed, then installed nine new hydrants. Without the new fire hydrants, firefighters would have to travel further in order to get water, potentially placing the community in danger.



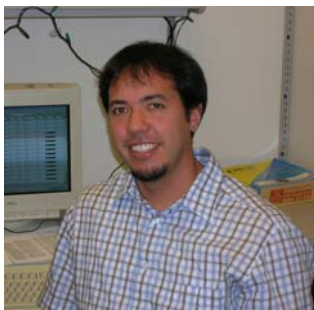
Drexel Heights Fire District

The Drexel Heights Fire District also used CDBG to install new fire hydrants. The community is in a very rural area without a large water supply. The new fire hydrants impact many communities and help to keep the residents safe in case of a fire.

Why Fire District

The Why Fire District purchased new firefighter safety equipment. Specifically, the department purchased new turnout gear. The new equipment makes it safer for firefighters to enter into burning buildings, which makes the community a safer place to live.

CDNC WELCOMES NEW INTERN, ERIC UCHIDA!



Erik Uchida graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He moved to Tucson last year to attend the University of Arizona. He is currently working on his master's degree in public administration. Erik began work as an intern in May of this year. As an intern, he helps to maintain the department website. Aside from working on the website, he also writes reports on various department projects. He will continue to work with the department throughout the year until he graduates next May. After graduating, Erik hopes to either continue with school and attain a PhD or find a job in local government.

Important Updates and Contact Information

NACCED UPDATE—SAVE THE DATE!

October 12-17, 2007

Pima County will host NACCED's 32nd Annual Conference!



The National Association for County, Community and Economic Development (NACCED) is a nonprofit national organization comprised of county government agencies that administer community development, economic development, and affordable

housing programs. NACCED serves over 120 counties, many of which are CDBG entitlement participating jurisdictions. In addition to providing technical assistance, information, and other professional services to members, NACCED serves as a prominent voice in Washington on policy issues relating to community, economic, and affordable housing development. The Annual Conference brings together practitioners, key policy makers, and other professionals in the field for training and active learning.

Through a competitive application process, Pima County was chosen as the host for 2007, and planning is underway. The conference will feature an exciting schedule of informative sessions and distinguished speakers, a tour of projects CDNC has been involved in, receptions, entertainment, and other events that will highlight the uniqueness of our County.

CDNC FY 06-07 Budget Overview

Budget by Service Area:

Administration and Planning
\$311,448

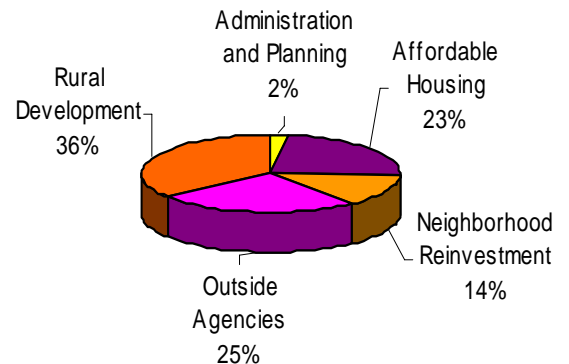
Affordable Housing
\$3,282,089

Neighborhood Reinvestment
\$1,896,820

Outside Agencies
\$3,555,693

Rural Development
\$4,980,615

2006-2007 CDNC Budget



Pima County Board of Supervisors

Richard Elías—Chairman
District 5

Ann Day
District 1

Ramón Valadez
District 2

Sharon Bronson
District 3

Ray Carroll
District 4

Important Telephone Numbers

Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation

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Affordable Housing and Community Planning
Betty Villegas, Program Manager—520.243.6744

Community and Rural Development
Al Kulwin, Program Manager—520.243.6754

Outside Agency Program
Jane Kroesen, Program Coordinator—520.243.6763

Neighborhood Reinvestment Program
Leslie Nixon, Program Manager—520.243.6769

www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC