

Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department News

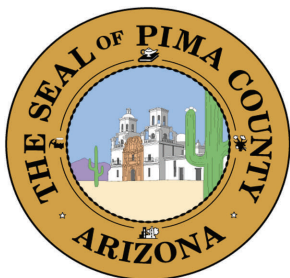
Volume Three



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Pima County Foreclosure Prevention Program Receives National Recognition

Pima County received an Award of Excellence in Program Innovation from the National Association of Community and Economic Development (NACCED) for our "Foreclosure Workbook." The award was presented at the Annual Business meeting and Awards Luncheon at NACCED's 33rd Annual Conference in Atlanta.

The Foreclosure Prevention workbook is part of Pima County's five point strategy for addressing foreclosure issues. The strategies include:

1. Implementation of Freddie Mac's Don't Borrow Trouble campaign in Pima County through a collaboration involving non-profit agencies and community organizations. The Don't Borrow Trouble Hot Line was established to assist owners with credit issues and expanded to include borrowers facing foreclosure.
2. The Pima County Affordable Housing Program and the Community Action Program jointly developed a special Rescue Fund program that allocated Emergency Shelter Network (ESN) funds for homeowners facing default and/or foreclosure, as well as tenants facing eviction due to their landlords letting properties go into foreclosure. The State of Arizona allowed up to \$2,000 per household to prevent individual families from foreclosure. Thirty-one households were assisted through June 30, 2008, with the available funding.
3. The Housing Program has held two consumer forums on foreclosure prevention. More than 400 participants have received information from HUD certified housing counselors, and many in attendance received one-on-one counseling sessions with their lenders. Two additional sessions are being planned for the fall, on September 27, 2008 and October 11, 2008. Pima County housing staff works very closely with its non-profit and for profit partners, and based on feedback from its first forum, staff created the "Foreclosure Workbook" to assist homeowners in understanding and assessing their situation so that they can make informed and realistic decisions when working with their lenders and/or counselors.



CDNC's May 29th Foreclosure Symposium

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Affordable Housing and Community Planning

Pima County Establishes A Green Building Program



The Pima County Regional Residential Green Building Program was developed to provide a guide and rating system for the design and construction of sustainable, environmentally responsible housing. The Rating Standard is specifically geared towards the Sonoran desert environment and includes many elements that can be incorporated at little or no additional cost during design and construction. The rating standard includes sections on Site Development, Resource Efficiency and Materials, Water Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and Homeowner Education. There is no cost to the owner or builder to participate in the program, which provides technical assistance, review and inspection of green features, and certification of residences that earn a certain level of credits.

La Causa Construction, a subsidiary of Chicanos Por La Causa, has submitted plans with the intention of participating in the program on two projects that they are developing in Tucson. They have received grants from the Enterprise Foundations Green Building Program to pursue design modifications to meet the program guidelines.

Pima County has negotiated an agreement with the City of Tucson that will enable Pima County to oversee the green building program, including inspections for projects that are located within the City of Tucson.

HUD Increases Funding For HOPWA Renewal Grant

Pima County received an award of \$1,268,844 for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program. This is an increase of \$323,401 for the three year grant which began on January 1, 2008. The additional funds allowed for an increase in the number of families receiving rental assistance through the City of Tucson's Section 8 Program from 26 to 45. Additional funds were also provided to assist with the maintenance of housing owned and operated by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).



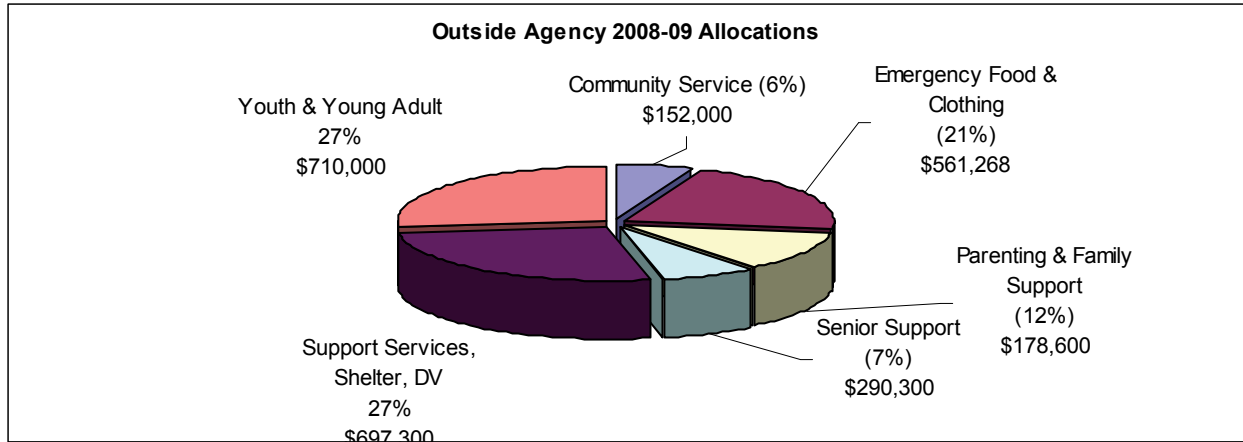
This marks the second 3 year renewal of this project which started in 1995. It is estimated that since its inception this grant has provided housing and support services for 160 households, serving over 250 individuals.

The Pima County and the City of Tucson share unique roles as HOPWA entitlements and grantees, respectively serving the same jurisdiction. Both grants fund the same service agency, SAAF insuring that a complimentary range of programs and services area available for clients. Pima County sponsored a half-day facilitated planning "retreat" for Pima County, City of Tucson, and SAAF staff involved with HOPWA programs, to discuss coordination of activities and to insure adequate funding is available to SAAF to maintain its programs, facilities and if necessary fund the expansion of housing services and opportunities for clients.

Outside Agency

The Outside Agency Advisory Committee is a community panel of six members appointed by each member of the Board of Supervisors and one representative appointed by the County Administrator. The Committee is charged with recommending funding allocations for the various community agencies seeking financial support from the County.

The Outside Agency Advisory Committee began the funding review process for FY 2008-2009 on February 22, 2008 to make recommendations on the one hundred and thirteen applications requesting funding in the six designated service categories. The Committee had established priority needs that were detailed in the request for applications and these priorities were used in the recommendation process. The application review consisted of facilitated roundtable discussions and each program representative discussed their proposed program, intended outcomes, services and needs.



The Committee members spent many hours reading proposals, preparing questions to ask at the roundtable and making their final recommendations. The quality work and the time invested supports their commitment to this process and the many programs supported through County funds.

Program Evaluation Workshop

A program evaluation workshop will be hosted by the Pima County Outside Agency Program on September 22nd, 2008 at the Kino Veterans Memorial Community Center. Leslie Carlson, a program evaluation consultant, will be presenting vital information on how agencies can improve their satisfaction surveys.

Outside Agency hosts technical training sessions throughout the year. The training sessions provide first hand knowledge and practical experience agencies use to evaluate and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of their programs.

Pima County Community Development & Neighborhood Conservation Department

MANDATORY FALL TRAINING

Top Ten Ways to Improve Satisfaction Surveys

Presenter: Leslie Carlson

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kino Veterans Memorial Community Center
2805 E. Ajo Way, Rooms 102-103
Tucson, AZ 85713
Contact Person: Jane Kroesen (520) 243-6763 or JKroesen@pima.gov

• Outside Agency Programs
• CDBG
• Emergency Shelter Grants

ONE PERSON FROM EACH AGENCY THAT RECEIVES FUNDING MUST ATTEND

Text Box

Advertisement for Outside Agency Training Session

Foreclosure Prevention

Pima County Foreclosure Prevention Program Receives National Recognition

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4. The Housing Program actively participates on the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force. Betty Villegas, Housing Program Manager, is on the Leadership Committee for this group as well as a member of the State Housing Commission. The focus of the Task Force is to provide information regarding prevention resources and develop strategies on a statewide level. This information is shared at the local level with the Pima County Foreclosure Prevention Task Force which meets on a regular basis. The local task force discusses prevention resources, best practice strategies and planning activities. Pima County has consistently been recognized as a leader in implementing strategies that work throughout Arizona by our peers on this task force. At the last meeting, when the workbook strategy was shared with the task force, the group asked if the workbook could be shared with housing organizations and jurisdictions throughout the State of Arizona. The taskforce saw it as a tool to reach and teach individuals in the rural areas where access to housing counselors is limited



5. The Housing Program staff works to track potential foreclosures when a Notice of Sale is filed with the Pima County Recorder's office. The model includes a letter (English and Spanish) sent to all homeowners who have received a Notice of Trustee Sale. The goal is to make the consumer aware of local resources as well as direct them to call the Don't Borrow Trouble® Pima County hotline. This model emphasizes the importance of contacting their lender, avoiding any quick fix scams that could make their situation even worse, and addresses Landlords who many times do not contact their tenants about a pending foreclosure.



A sixth, soon to be adopted strategy will involve purchase of foreclosed properties using funds that Pima County is likely to receive that will be distributed from the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. These funds will be used to leverage local resources including Housing Bond funds. Pima County will continue its dedication to preventing home foreclosures.

Outside Agency Funding FY 2008-2009 Mortgage Default Prevention

Applicant	Program	2008-2009 Award
Administration of Resources and Choices	Mortgage Default and Foreclosure Assistance	\$ 18,500.00
Catholic Community Services dba Pio Decimo Center	Mortgage Default and Foreclosure Assistance	\$ 22,500.00
Chicanos por la Causa	Foreclosure Intervention and Default Counseling	\$ 40,000.00
Family Housing Resources, Inc	Mortgage Delinquency Counseling	\$ 32,500.00
Southwest Fair Housing Council	Don't Borrow Trouble-Pima County	\$ 15,800.00
Total		\$ 129,300.00

Misc County Funded Projects

Pima County Assume HMIS Contract



Pima County has agreed to assume the contract to manage the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the Pima County/City of Tucson Continuum of Care. The one year HUD grant is for \$181,089. The Arizona Department of Housing and Pima County will provide matching funds for the grant.

HMIS is a computerized data collection application that facilitates the collection of information on homeless individuals and families using residential or other homeless assistance services and stores the data in an electronic format. Because HMIS has the capacity to integrate data from all homeless service providers in the community and to capture basic

descriptive information on every person served, it is a valuable resource for communities. HMIS can be employed to better understand the characteristics of homeless persons in the community, including their demographic characteristics, patterns of homelessness, and use of services; and document the community's progress in reducing homelessness.



Homeless Man in Tucson

Because each of the three Continua in the State will be using the same software system it will be possible to issue reports covering homeless activities throughout Arizona.

Ajo Plaza Study



The Ajo Plaza may be the future site of another ambitious ISDA community development project.

The International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) has embarked on another ambitious project, to purchase and redevelop the Ajo Plaza. CDNC in conjunction with its sister department, Pima County Attractions, hired ESI Corp. to review potential commercial options for redevelopment of the Plaza.

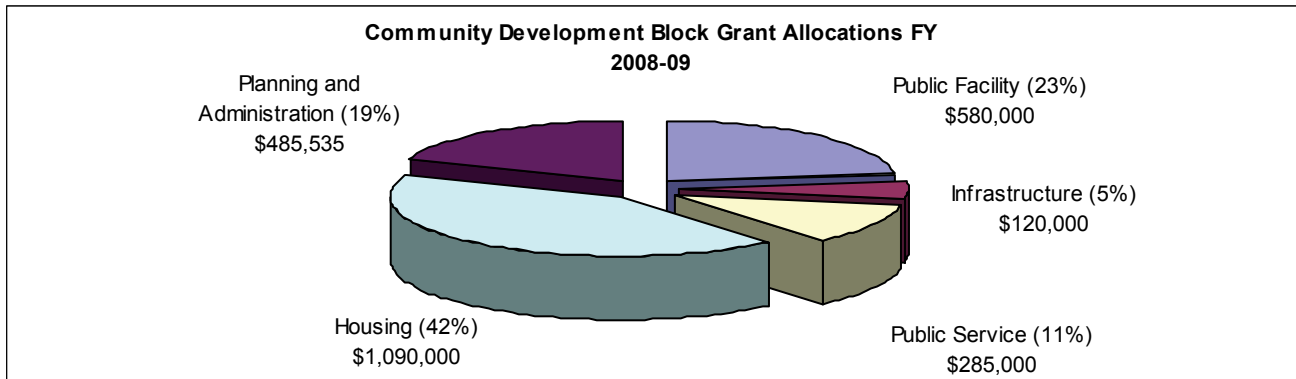
The Plaza occupies six acres and contains six building with 88,641 square feet of building space surrounding open space on three sides. Constructed in several stages in the Spanish Colonial style, the Plaza functioned as the mining community's downtown, including mercantile space, offices, theatre, and industrial space. The train depot anchors the south side of the plaza.

ESI surveyed residents and visitors to determine their interests and needs for commercial redevelopment in Ajo. The draft report indicates a strong need for clothing, household and entertainment services. A Plaza with an appropriate mix of retail business and services, as well as lodging will attract local residents, tourists and shoppers from Mexico.

Community Development Block Grant

CDBG Allocations—FY 2008-2009

The CDBG program provides residents of Pima County with the opportunity to improve their communities by funding activities that provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low-and moderate-income persons. Grant awards are made to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, community development and the provision of improved community facilities and services.



Drexel Heights Fire District: Family Safety Program

The Family Safety Program recently received an Award of Merit in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services from the NAHRO. Each year young children are killed or injured in fires, swimming pool, and when they are improperly secured in automobile safety seats. The Family Safety Program will not only teach parents what they need to know about general safety but will provide First Aid, and CPR training. The child safety seat portion teaches parents about criteria for installing car seats. Appropriate seats for their automobile will be provided and in addition, participants receive smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. This education and safety equipment is intended to make the children safer and more secure.



Participants in CPR training

Pima Computer Recycling (PCR)



Computer hardware waiting to be repaired

Pima Computer Recycling (PCR) received the 2008 National Award of Merit in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services from the NAHRO. PCR is a non-profit agency that accepts computer related waste and recycles it either by breaking the hardware into its raw materials or reselling the useful parts. In addition, Pima Computer Recycling refurbishes and repairs where possible a range of computer related items including computer, monitor, software, keyboard, mice and speakers.

PCR also provides a computer training program that prepares individuals entering the technology job market with knowledge and hands-on experience.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Program

Highland Vista Neighborhood Reinvestment Project

Highland Vista Neighborhood Association was awarded \$75,000 in Neighborhood Reinvestment funds by the Board of Supervisors for landscape modifications in the South Riparian Area of the 20/30 Highland Vista Park. The project was recently completed and a dedication ceremony was held.

The project included landscaping the perimeter walking path and creating an educational riparian sensory garden using native Sonoran Desert vegetation.

The project incorporates water harvesting techniques that capture and store rain water for irrigation of the riparian landscaped area, which also mitigates monsoon storm water drainage. The water harvesting component will reduce erosion, runoff, and downstream sedimentation; will enhance existing and newly landscaped areas; and reduce the amount of pollutants entering washes.

The dedication ceremony was held on August 23, 2008, and was hosted by Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias and City of Tucson Council Member Nina Trasoff.



Dedication Ceremony at Highland Vista Neighborhood Association

Rillito-Tucson Neighborhood Reinvestment Project



The Natural Resource Area

The Rillito-Tucson Neighborhood, between Alvernon and Swan roads north of Fort Lowell, wanted a project to benefit the entire community. With the help of the Davidson Elementary School students and staff, neighborhood residents applied for and were granted Neighborhood Reinvestment bond funding for a natural resource park and an ADA accessible playground to be shared by the community and the school.

The park offers a broad array of recreational and interpretive opportunities. The natural resource area of the park will be used as an outdoor classroom for students. When the facility is not in use by the school, it is available for neighbors to use as a public park.

The Tucson-Rillito project is a collaboration of Davidson Elementary School students, Tucson- Rillito Neighborhood residents, District 3 Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Tucson Ward II City Council Member Rodney Glassman, Tucson Unified School District, and Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.

The park dedication is scheduled for October 21, 2008. It is located at TUSD Davidson Elementary School, 3950 E. Paradise Falls Drive.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Program

“A” Mountain Community Welcomes Pedestrian Safety Project

The “A” Mountain Community is located south of Pima County’s “A” Mountain. The Community Association was formed in 2002 with the merger of two former neighborhood organizations, with the goal of improving the quality of life in the neighborhood.

With the support of Pima County Supervisor Chairman Richard Elías, the A Mountain Community Association requested and received funding from the Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program for construction of sidewalks and speed humps. Although there are existing sidewalks in the neighborhood, many areas had no sidewalks, which created safety hazards for children walking to school, residents using wheelchairs, elderly pedestrians, and residents walking to and from public transportation. The much needed improvements were completed in March 2008.



Chairman Elías at the Dedication Ceremony

“The hard work and dedication of the A Mountain Community Association saw this 2005-initiated project through difficult times to reach its completion this year,” said Supervisor Elías, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

“The project’s sidewalks and street-calming measures have done much to enhance the quality of life in this unique neighborhood, and the A Mountain Community Association deserves high praise for its achievements,” stated Chairman Elías.

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

County Administrator
C.H. Huckelberry

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www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC