

# Winter 2010 Newsletter

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## CDNC Receives \$22.2 Million for NSP 2 Program

**HUD News Release  
1/14/2010**

TUCSON, AZ - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Mercedes Márquez today announced that HUD is awarding nearly \$118 million in Recovery Act funding throughout Arizona under HUD's [Neighborhood Stabilization Program \(NSP\)](#).

The NSP grants announced today are part of \$2 billion awarded nationwide to local communities and non-profit housing developers to combat the effects of vacant and abandoned homes while creating jobs.

During a news conference at the site of a formerly foreclosed upon home in South Tucson, Márquez announced the following NSP grants in Arizona: Pima County, \$22.2 million; City of Phoenix, \$60 million; and Chicanos Por la Causa, Inc., an estimated \$35.8 million.

"Vacant homes have a debilitating effect on neighborhoods and often lead to reduced property

values, blight, and neighborhood decay," said Márquez. "This Recovery Act funding will help stabilize hard-hit communities in Arizona by turning vacant homes from eyesores into community assets. The Neighborhood Stabilization

***The NSP Program was Created to Address the Foreclosure Crisis, Create Jobs, and to Revitalize Local Economies***

program is a key part of the Obama Administration's comprehensive approach to address the national housing and economic crisis."

Rep. Raúl Grijalva said, "Neighborhoods and communities have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis, and the Recovery Act funds we are announcing will be critical to neighborhood recovery. A foreclosed home is a tragedy for a family, and when the home stays vacant, as so many are in today's market, the entire community suffers. Currently action is being taken to defend and strengthen the areas of our cities facing these challenges, and I'm happy to see timely support going

where it is needed most."

Funded through the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), this round of NSP grants is being awarded competitively to applicants who developed the most innovative ideas to address the impact the foreclosure crisis has had on local communities, while demonstrating that they have the capacity to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program was created to address the foreclosure crisis, create jobs, and grow local economies by providing communities with the resources to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and convert them to affordable housing.

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## Santa Rita Skate Park is a Hit!

The Santa Rita Skate Park, located in Pima County District Two, was a unique and challenging project. It combined funds from many sources including 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program; 1997 Community Development Block Grants; Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department; City of Tucson Wards 3 and 5 Council Members; Tucson Mayor's Office; and Tucson Back to Basics funding.

The project was submitted by the Santa Rita Park Neighborhood Association as a central recreational site for local skateboarding youth. Previously, the closest skate park was on Tucson's far eastside (Ott YMCA).

Originally planned as a 22,000 square foot skate park, it was rescaled to 12,000 square feet to stay within the project budget.



The park opened its doors to the community on April 25, 2009, and since that date, 40 to 100 skaters have used it each day. Santa Rita is also the only local skate park which is free to skateboarders.

Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez and Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Coordinator Tony Reis were instrumental in bringing the skate park to completion. Private fundraising has begun for a second Santa Rita Park project, an above ground plaza for use by BMX cyclists.



Youth Enjoying the Skate Park Facility

## Pima County CDBG Projects Get Boost in Funding from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been helping communities across the United States since 1974.

This formula based block grant program enables local governments to undertake a wide range of activities intended to create suitable living environments, provide decent affordable housing and create economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income.

Each year these funds enable the Pima County Community Development and

Neighborhood Conservation Department (CDNC) to undertake critical projects that help communities in Pima County.

***The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law in February 2009, increased HUD funding levels to help provide swift and effective revitalization of the communities hardest hit by the economic crisis.***

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law in February 2009, increased HUD funding levels to help provide swift and effective revitalization of the communities hardest hit by the economic crisis.

The programs funded under the reinvestment act will help to generate jobs, modernize homes to make them energy efficient, and more importantly, help the families and communities who are struggling during these difficult times.

Under the recovery act the CDBG program (these programs will be designated

as CDBG-R) will allocate \$1 billion for approximately 1200 state and local governments to invest in their own community development priorities. Of this \$1 billion Pima County will receive \$695,454 for CDBG-R projects. Projects chosen for CDBG-R funding must have the ability to be under contract within 120 days of receiving the award. By using criteria that expedites projects the CDBG-R funding will be able to quickly impact the lives of Pima County residents.

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## Continental Health Clinic: a Successful Public/Private Partnership

Continental, an unincorporated community east of Green Valley, has experienced a major growth in population in recent years. Due to this, the local health clinic has become overwhelmed by an increased demand for health care services.

Realizing this problem, the Continental community partnered with United Community Health Center (UCHC) Diamond Ventures, and the Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department in obtaining land and funding for a new pediatric health clinic facility.

The Continental Community worked with Neighborhood Reinvestment Pro-

gram coordinator Bennett Bernal to successfully obtain \$500,000 in Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment bond funds to pay for the 3,300 sq. ft. pediatric clinic at the main UCHC Continental site.

Additionally, The UCHC Board of Directors contributed \$500,000 in matching funds, and Diamond Ventures donated the land.

The United Community Health Center is an important asset to the community as it provides healthcare to uninsured and under-insured families throughout Green Valley. This project enhances the clinic's ability to provide this service and is a great example of

what can happen when the public and private sector partner together.

The Continental UCHC Pediatric Clinic will open its doors to patients on November 15th, 2009.



Continental Health Clinic

## El Cortez Shade Structures Promote Resident Health, Safety, and Recreation

El Cortez Heights Neighborhood Association requested and was approved for Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment bond funding to construct shade structures for the children's play area at the Northwest Center in Mansfield Park. The project, located in Pima County District 5, was completed in October 2009.

Mansfield Park and the Northwest Center are the heart of El Cortez Heights neighborhood. The new shade structures will encourage outdoor physical activity for the children and

***Mansfield Park and the Northwest Center are the Heart of the El Cortez Heights Neighborhood***

will especially increase use during the hot summer months since the structures will be protected from the sun.

More frequent use of the park should result in a reduction of crime, drug use, and suspicious activities as residents will be more active. Increased use of recreation facilities provides health and fitness benefits for the local children and adults. Congratulation El Cortez Heights!

The El Cortez Heights Neighborhood Association has been active for more than twenty years, successfully developing many projects to improve their community.

*Lori Aldecoa was the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Coordinator for the El Cortez project.*



New Shade Structures at Mansfield Park

## The Rose Neighborhood: Crossing the Bridge When They Got There

The Rose Neighborhood Association was formed in 1999 with the specific purpose of giving the community a voice in social and political issues. This south side community is home to approximately, 950 families, with many heads of household over the age of 80. The



Neighborhood Association Members Posing on Old Rose Bridge

neighborhood is bordered by Ajo Way on the north, Irvington Road on the south, I-19 on the west, and 12<sup>th</sup> avenue on the east.

This neighborhood association is comprised primarily of older residents. By the time the neighborhood leadership requested funding from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program in July of 2005, the small group of *viejitas* (Spanish for older ladies) had already worked with various organizations to plan a new pedestrian bridge over

Rodeo Wash. The *viejitas* emphasized that the existing bridge was a safety hazard, as it was close to 50 years old and was in deteriorating condition.

The residents worked with the University of Arizona's College of Architecture to develop design plans for the bridge. The community submitted a Neighborhood Reinvestment proposal seeking \$303,000, which was approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Moreno, a member of the leadership team, expressed her happiness for the funding allocation. Her only concern was that the decrepit bridge would have to "continue to rattle under the feet of neighborhood children crossing Rodeo Wash" until the new bridge was constructed.

After a number of design delays, construction began on the bridge during Summer 2009 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2009.

The new bridge will provide safe passage for children living in the northern end of the community, who must cross Rodeo Was to reach C.E. Rose Elementary School and the linear park developed with 1997 Neighborhood Reinvestment bond funds. More frequent use of the park and walking path should result in a reduction of crime, drug use, and suspicious activities in that part of the community.

*The project was constructed by Pima County's Department of Transportation. Camiliano Juárez was the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Coordinator for the project.*



New Rose Bridge

## NSP 2 Program (Continued from Page 1)

Last year, HUD awarded nearly \$4 billion in NSP formula funds to over 300 grantees nationwide to help state and local governments respond to rising foreclosures and falling home values.

In a consortium agreement with the City of Tucson, Southern Arizona Land Trust, Community Investment Corporation, Family Housing Resources, Primavera Foundation, Old Pueblo Community Services, and Habitat for

Humanity/Tucson, CDNC has been awarded \$22,165,000 in NSP2 funds. The Consortium will use these funds in targeted areas in the County, which include 29 census tracts experiencing high foreclosure rates, an aging housing stock, absentee landlords, and a population suffering from high unemployment and credit challenges.

The consortium's goal is to create a stable housing market in five years

that will lead to further social and economic stabilization. In addition to the NSP2 funds, the consortium will use \$14,252,798 in other funds to help achieve neighborhood stabilization.

*This Article was released by HUD on 1/14/2010, <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/states/arizona/news/HUDNo.2010-01-14>*

## CDBG-R Projects (Continued from Page 1)

Two "Shovel Ready" projects were chosen to receive the CDBG-R funds: the Catalina Community Building; and the Amado Food Bank .

**Catalina Community Building:** Construction of the new multi-purpose community building began on November 20th, 2009, and when completed will house a food and clothing bank, senior programs, multi-purpose rooms, and the offices for the Pima County Health Department. Health Department Services will include immunizations, family planning and



Construction Site for New Community Building

public health education.

This project will greatly benefit the citizens of Catalina by consolidating social services in one location, and providing economic assistance at the lowest possible cost. Additionally, the construction project itself will help the local economy by providing an estimated 38 construction jobs.



Ground Breaking Ceremony

**Amado Food Bank:** The original Amado food bank was purchased using CDBG funds and in 2006 a building addition of

3969 square feet was constructed. Due to limited funding only the exterior shell was completed, and the addition had no mechanical or interior finishes. The CDBG-R funds will be used to fully finish the interior additions. This addition will allow Amado to centralize social services in one location, increase food bank operations, and will provide for additional recreation programs that have not been previously available to the community.



Amado Food Bank and Community Center

## Old Arivaca School House Renovation Completed

The old Arivaca School House Renovation is now complete! Originally constructed in 1879 of stucco and mud adobe, the building is thought to be the oldest standing school building in Arizona.

Arivaca currently utilizes the school house as a community and cultural center and recently the school was nominated to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Old Arivaca School House

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) issued this past year allowed for several renovations, including the replacement of the floor, ceiling, lights in the main room, kitchen grill, cooler and kitchen faucet. Additionally, gutters were added and the whole building was painted.

In addition to these renovations the Ari-

vaca Family and Community Education Association has replaced the refrigerator, microwave, and exhaust fans in the kitchen . The Old School House now looks very much like a new facility yet still has maintained the cultural and historical charm of the time period in which it was originally built .

*Supervisor Sharon Bronson supported the project , and Allen Kulwin was the CDNC coordinator for the project.*

## Jesus Duran Interviewed By KVOA Channel 4 News

Recently CDNC staff member Jesus Duran was interviewed by KVOA channel 4 news to highlight the Pima County Home Repair and Weatherization program.

The interview -which aired on November 23rd, 2009- focused on the economic and environmental advantages that the Weatherization Program provides to county residents.

The interview took place at the home of Jaymes Palka, a Weatherization Program customer whose home was being re-

***The Weatherization Program Helps County Residents Economically, and Helps them to reduce their Carbon Footprint by Lowering Energy Consumption***

paired. During the interview, contractors took diagnostics, installed a new roof jack with dampers and a new 5500 cooler, serviced the furnace, and sealed the supply ducts. The repairs that took place on Mr. Palka's home have already saved him 15% on his electric bill, and will save him even more during the peak summer months.

The Weatherization program helps the "greening of Pima County," and helps save clients a substantial amount of money by reducing their energy burden and consumption levels.

The Weatherization Program recently (March 2009) received a \$1.7 million grant from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and Mr. Duran stated that he hopes to increase the amount of homes repaired to 120 per year, a 300 percent increase from previous annual capacity.

*For more information regarding the Weatherization and Home Repair program please contact Paula Jansmann @ (520) 243-6696*



### Pima County Board of Supervisors

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Chairman  
*District 2*

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**Sharon Bronson**  
*District 3*

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*District 4*

**Richard Elías**  
*District 5*

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[www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC](http://www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC)