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3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$48,000 under the Fiscal Year 2022, Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grants account for Desert Valley Senior Center in the City of Somerton, Arizona.

The entity to receive funding for this project is located at 245 S. Bingham Ave. Somerton, AZ 85350. The location of the project is 245 S. Bingham Ave. Somerton, AZ 85350.

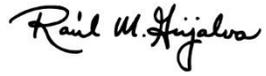
The requested funding is urgently needed by Desert Valley Senior Center as they provide seniors from the community a welcoming environment with activities such as local field trips, arts and crafts and serves daily breakfast and lunch. Additionally, they provide blood pressure check-ups with the support of the local fire department. The majority of the seniors they service are low-income, on a fixed-income and receive social security benefits. After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the center began offering home-delivered meals to local seniors for the first time. Seniors are receiving 5 meals per week. Due to the increase in service the center is in need to replace essential equipment in their kitchen area such as, standard aluminum sinks and commercial dish washers. These essential kitchen components are creating a strain on their meals program, and these replacements will enable the program to better serve the community's seniors. Furthermore, the outdated and limited fitness equipment needs to be urgently replaced. During this critical time of high stress, exercise has become more critical for the wellness of seniors. The used equipment was purchased well-over 10 years ago and is in need of updating.

Additionally, the community facility is lacking essential equipment to service clients with disabilities, these funds would allow the Center to install automatic handicap doors in their main entrance. The majority of seniors are 60 and over and are more prone to requiring assistance with accessibility. Finally, a senior program in their botanical and gardening center serves as an essential activity to this population. Unfortunately, the extreme warm weather of the Southwest and the advance age of the seniors does not permit for more use of this area. With this funding, Desert Valley Senior Center would add shading and a seating area to provide necessary accommodations. This funding would be well-invested and put to good use for our most vulnerable population.

This funding request for Desert Valley Senior is a vital to the Somerton community to continuing to provide a welcoming place where seniors can get together to socialize, exercise, and receive support and resources on senior resources, health information and screening, or benefit from the many other services provided for older people, such as senior transportation services. This will contribute to their social, emotional and physical health.

**I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress