

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE

EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR EMERITUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone (202) 225-2435 | Fax (202) 225-1541

101 W. Irvington Rd., BLDG. 4
Tucson, AZ 85714
Phone (520) 622-6788 | Fax (520) 622-0198

146 N. State Ave.
P.O. Box 4105
Somerton, AZ 85350
Phone (928) 343-7933 | Fax (928) 343-7949

1412 N. Central Ave., Suite B
Avondale, AZ 85323
Phone (623) 536-3388 | Fax (623) 535-7479

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)
INSTAGRAM: [Instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://www.instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.

Chair,

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry

Ranking Member,

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Bishop Jr. and Ranking Member Fortenberry,

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

The Desert Valley Senior Center provides seniors from the community a welcoming environment with activities such as local field trips, arts and craft and serves daily breakfast and lunch. Additionally, they provide blood pressure check-ups with the support of the local fire department. Most 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. Currently, seniors are receiving 5 meals per week. Due to the increase in service, the Center needs 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 proposal is valuable use of taxpayer money as the Desert Valley Senior is a vital to the Somerton community in continuing to provide a welcoming place where seniors can get together to socialize, exercise, and receive support and resources, health information and screening, or benefit from the many other services,

such as senior transportation services. By providing seniors with these services it will support their social, emotional and physical health.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress