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April 26, 2022

David E. Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

I am requesting \$2,747,000 under the FY 23 Economic Development Initiative program for the City of Tucson's El Pueblo Center Revitalization proposal to reinvigorate the El Pueblo Center site with a focus on children and youth, STEM and small business.

The El Pueblo Center serves an important role in the Tucson community; it began as a neighborhood center and has grown to include a Pima Community College (PCC) Adult Education campus, a library run by Pima County, non-profit services provided by Clinica Amistad, EMERGE, Interfaith Community Services and others, a senior center that provides meals and the Laos Transit Center. The El Pueblo Center has been the hub of the community and an important resource serving especially residents in Wards I and 5. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the campus. Crime, lack of activation, and lack of investment have created the perfect storm of need. When the Department of Economic Security (DES) vacated an entire building, a series of community and stakeholder conversations began that have led to the inception of this project. Reinvigorating this site with a focus on children and youth, STEM and Small Business will help facilitate the transformation this campus requires by adding in multigenerational services in areas that are needful. Now is the right time to reconstruct this site into a hi-flex, hi-tech space so that it is in the best position to serve our current needs and into the future.

El Pueblo Center has been a hub of the community since its inception. It's longstanding history as a gathering place to promote social justice and community empowerment is key. The key component of this project will be to renovate the vacant daycare space into a state-of-the-art facility for childcare or early education services to a community in need. In several community forums that were held, we heard a universal need from our families, which was daycare and affordable preschool. We have an opportunity to redesign the future of education for our families in disadvantaged neighborhoods. A foundation to a quality education should not be based on what side of town you live in, or how much income a family brings home. Our families are the pillars of our nation, and they deserve the opportunity to an equitable infrastructure to academic success. The budget allows for a perimeter, play-ground and an outdoor exploration

space. This will create safe space for needed childcare services and bring families back into the neighborhood center.

Additionally, the project will provide an opportunity to revitalize the building left vacant by DES as well as begin to invest in the Adult Education Center operated by Pima Community College. The City of Tucson’s Community Safety, Health and Wellness Hub will move into a portion of this space. This opportunity to co-locate the program directors, administrators and other people engaging in the continued development and implementation of this program is key to its success. The remaining portion of the building will be converted to a high-tech, hi-flex space to enhance Pima Community College's existing Adult Basic Education (ABE) and new program offerings. This will serve as an opportunity for Pima Community College and the City of Tucson to develop programming for middle and high school age youth in workforce development in the rapidly growing I.T., Entrepreneurship, Business, and Logistics Sector. This is an important aspect of creating the multi-generational space that is desired at the El Pueblo Center.

This project requires \$2,747,000 and the budget is detailed below.

Project Element	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost	In-Kind Contribution
DES Building Tenant Improvements	26,000	SF	\$ 67.50	\$ 1,755,000	
Daycare Safety Perimeter	180	LS	\$ 55.56	\$ 10,000	
Daycare Building Tenant Improvements, Flooring & Outdoor Space	7,155	SF	\$ 118.80	\$ 850,000	
Base IT Upgrades	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000	
Hi-Tech / HyFlex Multi-Use Classroom	1	LS	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000	
Hi-Tech / HyFlex Computer Lab	1	LS	\$ 213,475.00	\$ 213,000	
<b>Total Cost</b>				<b>\$ 3,008,000</b>	
Local Match			% Share	Funds	In-Kind Contribution
City of Tucson General Fund				\$ 250,000	
Pima Community College				\$ 11,000	\$239,000 worth of in-kind; staff time & indirect costs
<b>Total Local Match Funds</b>			<b>9%</b>	<b>\$ 261,000</b>	
<b>Federal Funding Request</b>			<b>91%</b>	<b>\$ 2,747,000</b>	

This is a shovel-ready capital project, and additional funding has already been committed, showing strong community support. The funds can be expended in the appropriate time frame, it does not require an environmental review as it’s with-in existing perimeters, and it will primarily serve low-income individuals. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress