

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 25, 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 \$810,000 under the FY 23 Economic Development Initiative program for the YMCA of Southern Arizona's proposal to purchase six 14 passenger buses to transport children.

Locally and nationally, the Y is a leader in quality childcare and youth programs. The Southern Arizona YMCA childcare programs serve significant numbers of underserved populations and marginalized communities. This includes a growing "notch group" in Arizona, who no longer qualify for state economic childcare assistance, but do not earn enough to afford the full cost of childcare.

The Mulcahy City YMCA is one of three facilities in the YMCA of Southern Arizona built in partnership with the City of Tucson. The facility was built and opened in 1990, serving the families in and surrounding South Tucson. The Mulcahy City YMCA is a YMCA Child Care Center providing programs in before and after school care, summer enrichment day camp, remote learning (during pandemic/school closures), and early childhood. On average, 65 elementary aged children are served daily at the Mulcahy City YMCA with 85% of these children being from underserved populations and marginalized communities. During the school year these children are transported to their school from the Y at the start of the day and then picked up at school and brought back to the Y for afterschool programming. The Y needs new transportation equipment to continue to ensure these youth have the educational enrichment support needed to thrive.

The total needed to purchase the equipment for transport of the children in the childcare programs is \$810,000. The funds will be used to purchase six 14 passenger buses used to transport children to school from the Y in the morning and after school to pick up the children from school and transport them to the Y for educational enrichment programs. Aside from the cost to purchase new equipment, the funding would also assist in the branding of the new childcare buses.

Only 8.7% of Arizona families can afford childcare. Accessing high-quality childcare has become out of reach for more than 90% of Arizona families. By providing a child with quality programming of STEAM, physical activity and fun, the Mulcahy YMCA will help them reach new levels of confidence. The Y helps provide critical program support to ensure all children have the resources they need to achieve their fullest potential. For a community to thrive we must provide opportunities to allow our working parents to be at work through provision of quality childcare that helps children learn, grow and thrive. Providing this critical programming while ensuring no one is turned away due to the inability to pay helps serve those in underserved and marginalized communities giving them access to the services they need to thrive. By ensuring the Y can continue to serve these children, the local community is able to continue to thrive as well as provide educational enrichment to those who need it most.

This is a shovel-ready capital project and will not require additional funding. The funds can be expended in the appropriate time frame, it does not require an environmental review and it will primarily serve low-income individuals. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress