

**RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**  
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CHAIR EMERITUS

## Congress of the United States

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Washington, DC 20515

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March 24, 2023

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop,

I am requesting \$102,358 under the FY 24 Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants program for the Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. a federally qualified health center located in Douglas, Arizona. This community health center was founded as a grassroots community effort in 1996. It initially began as a makeshift clinic in a small community center, it has since grown to be the largest primary care organization in southeastern Arizona that serves 1 in 4 residents of Cochise County.

This funding request would support the refurbishment and upgrade of the nearly 120-year-old former school that now houses Chiricahua Community Health Center's "Pediatric Center of Excellence". This historic building, an icon in the Douglas community, underwent extensive renovations in 2011 to support its mission to serve the primary healthcare needs of the community's children regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status, while maintaining the historic integrity of the structure.

Unfortunately, the exterior plaster of the adobe-style building has been compromised by its maturity and requires it to be replastered and painted to maintain the integrity of the facade. Additionally, upgrades to the landscaping and courtyard area will provide an inviting, interactive environment for the community. The addition of educational and tactile equipment such as whisper dishes (parabolic dishes that amplify and reflect sound) will allow children to interact and learn while at the center. Other playground equipment such as slides and climbing toys will encourage movement, balance, and agility. The ultimate objective is to provide the children and their families from this rural border community with exceptional pediatric care. The building is a certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and as such the landscaping will use drought-tolerant, noninvasive plants with an irrigation system to maximize water efficiency.

Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. estimates that this project will cost a total of \$292,450, this account has a cost share requirement, therefore Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. is requesting \$102,358 which will be used to preserve the historic building, while providing the necessary repairs and upgrades to support the children and families that it serves.

The budget breakdown for the cost estimate for this request is as follows:

- Lathe and Plaster to Exterior Building - ( $\$12/\text{sqft} \times 9,930 \text{ sqft}$ ) \$119,160
- Exterior Building Paint - ( $\$3/\text{sqft} \times 9,930 \text{ sqft}$ ) \$29,790
- Landscaping (upgraded landscaping; irrigation) - \$35,000
- Educational Playground Equipment (whisper discs, slide;  $\$4.50/\text{sqft}$ ) - \$30,000
- Insurance - \$3,500
- Contractor Fees - \$75,000

Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. stands ready to meet all necessary cost-share requirements. This investment in the community health center will support the growing needs of this community by continuing to provide the highest quality dental, behavioral and medical care while preserving the history of this facility. This project meets all eligibility requirements and is ready to begin and obligate funds within a year.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress