

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

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May 1, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$1.1 million under the FY 25 HUD-EDI account for the City of South Tucson's Community Revitalization project.

The City of South Tucson proposes a comprehensive community revitalization effort that includes: an emergency home repair program for residents, critical renovations to South Tucson's fire department and Youth Center, and renovation of the historic Paradise Motel, a 41-unit motel to provide safe, affordable residential space and workforce development opportunities to low-income residents of the area.

The City of South Tucson (COST) is a 1.2 square city totally surrounded on all sides by the City of Tucson. While rich in cultural heritage, diverse people and a strong sense of identity, the city struggles with many challenges. According to the last census, the poverty rate of South Tucson is 38.6% with the surrounding city of Tucson at 20.8%, the state of Arizona at 12.5%. In addition to poverty, South Tucson faces several other factors that also heighten its susceptibility including growing climate impacts, high risk lead poisoning, high percentage of children under the age of five, aging housing stock, and limited access to economic and education opportunities.

The Paradise Motel will anchor overall revitalization efforts. Constructed in 1938, it sits on a 43,422 square feet lot with a built square footage of 13,412 square feet. An architecture firm completed a capital needs assessment prior to the purchase, which identified \$522,000 worth of Phase 1 safety and security renovations. These Phase 1 repairs will include electrical upgrades, security gate/fence, structural repairs, conference, room furniture, office furniture, appliances, ADA unit rehab, sprinkler system, plumbing and a roof. When Phase 1 renovations are complete, partner organization Primavera can begin to provide short-term housing and provide services to residents in need. The finished motel will also incorporate opportunities for people to access training of microbusiness enterprise-service focused opportunities.

This project also includes John Valenzuela Youth Center kitchen rehab and roof repair, the South Tucson Fire Department upgrades, and an Emergency Home Repair Program for residents to

counter community displacement by allowing residents to access needed repairs to stay in their home and their community.

Funding available through this opportunity can make the difference between homelessness and community stability and is critically important to improving housing, public facilities, and economic stability in the City of South Tucson. Primary supporters are the Primavera Foundation, Inc, the City of South Tucson and the local community. This project meets all requirements, is shovel ready, and can obligate funds within a year.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

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

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress