

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
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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

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May 3, 2024

Representative Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Tucson and Pima County Regional Navigation Center in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Tucson, located at 2717 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85713. The funding would be used for the conversion of a vacant storefront space into a day-use Navigation Center for persons experiencing homelessness. The funding will allow for removal of heavy equipment, demolition, creating shelter space including sleeping areas with storage for personal belongings, showers, bathrooms, and a bed bug treatment tent.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because studies have shown that providing shelter or housing for persons experiencing homelessness is the most effective and resource efficient approach. However, more shelter beds are needed in the Tucson region as well as a regional Navigation Center to coordinate activities across agencies.

Pima County has the highest rate of homelessness per capita in Arizona. One in 469 Pima County residents (more than 2,200 individuals each night), experienced homelessness on the night of the 2023 Point in Time Count. Furthermore, persons experiencing homelessness in Pima County are far more likely to be unsheltered than their peers in other areas of the state with 68% of homeless persons in Pima County remaining unsheltered on the night of the 2023 Point in Time Count.

Once a “low wage, low rent” town, Tucson’s exploding housing market and rapidly increasing rental costs have produced the worst rate of unsheltered homelessness in the state and a 300% increase in unsheltered homelessness between 2018 and 2023. Tucson and surrounding Pima County are currently experiencing a previously unseen housing crisis – one that has led the local

Continuum of Care, city and county governments, and HUD to partner to launch a disaster management response to address homelessness in the region using the Housing Central Command (HCC) approach previously used in Los Angeles and other hard-hit regions. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress