

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
DEVELOPMENT

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR EMERITUS

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
and Urban Development

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
and Urban Development

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$3,000,000 under the FY 25 HUD-Economic Development Initiative account for the City of Tucson's proposal to fund the establishment of the Tucson and Pima County Regional Navigation Center. The City of Tucson and Pima County are working collaboratively to provide shelter and resources for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our community.

The City of Tucson purchased a large dormitory, storefront area, and warehouse from Salvation Army. The Tucson non-profit Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS) received funding from Arizona Department of Housing to renovate and operate a 100-bed low-barrier shelter in the dormitory area. This funding would allow the City to renovate the storefront and a portion of the warehouse to expand the number of beds for people experiencing homelessness and operate a Navigation Center aimed at reducing housing encampments and providing services and housing placement. It provides access to frequent free public bus routes and Case Management services.

The City of Tucson Housing First program, in partnership with OPCS, will operate the Regional Navigation Center. Community non-profits and behavioral health agencies will offer robust services. The homeless work program, that offers daily employment, will be available to individuals using the Navigation Center. The adaptive reuse of warehouse space will create an additional 100 beds of congregate emergency shelter for unsheltered adults.

The requested funding will be used to convert a vacant storefront space into a day-use Navigation Center for persons experiencing homelessness. Improvements include creating small meeting rooms where Case Managers and Service Providers can meet with persons experiencing homelessness. A larger meeting space will be converted to a training facility for group meetings, demonstrations, and skill-building classes. At the entrance, a waiting area with computers and additional resources will be designed to welcome clients and provide information while they wait for help. An area of the warehouse will be converted to a low-barrier, emergency congregate shelter. 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 budget breakdown for the cost estimate for this request is as follows:

- Regional Navigation Center - \$500,000 (cleaning, environmental mitigation, construction, furnishings, etc.)
- Emergency Shelter Expansion - \$2,500,000 (removal and demolition, environmental mitigation, construction, furnishings)

Community partners for this project are the City of Tucson Housing First Program and Old Pueblo Community Services. 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' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress