

Project Name: Sahuarita Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility

1. **Broad Demonstrated Support by Public:** Demand for the food services provided have more than tripled in the past year as awareness of the Sahuarita Food Bank has increased. Our ability to serve our expanding clientele is severely constrained by our available but limited facilities that do not provide the physical space for the growth we have experienced and expect to continue to experience in the near and mid-term.
 - Our 'traditional' food bank operations serve approximately 90 households – 250 people total, providing them a twice-monthly combination of USDA/AZ DES products and other donated and purchased food and related products. Client service, plus food storage is conducted within spaces donated by our supporting host, placing a significant burden on their ability to conduct church-related activities.
 - Our Snak Paks for Kids® program (a partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB) and the Sahuarita School District) served 75 nutritionally 'at-risk' children last year, providing them with week-end nutritional supplements. We are expanding the program this year to 100 children. Meals are packaged in our supporting host's spaces, again placing a significant burden on them.
 - Our recent implementation of the Arizona Produce Gleaning Program distributes surplus wholesale produce to needy families and keeps unwanted produce out of the waste-stream. In May we distributed over 1,500 pounds of food. This program, which is most intense between October and May, places a very significant burden on our supporting host's facilities, both for storage of perishable produce and for servicing clientele. We do not have sufficient refrigerated storage to efficiently conduct the program.
 - Our developing partnerships; e.g., CareMore, provide an opportunity for 'one stop shopping' for individuals and families generally in need of services provided by these other social service organizations, which themselves have demonstrated support in the community based on their client loads. Presently, our limited physical facilities severely constrain our ability to host their operations in conjunction with our own.

Our programs have been recognized and supported by local charitable foundations, civic organizations, realty associations, and neighboring churches. The Pima County government community development agencies and the Sahuarita Town Council have voiced their support for our operations. Our volunteers come from local churches and businesses in addition to our hosting church.

2. **Has Regional Public Benefit:** 95% of our food pantry clientele comes from Pima County. Near 70% come from northern Sahuarita, the South Nogales Highway area, including Summit View (a designated 'food desert'), Magee Ranch area, and southern Tucson. Additionally, we are providing support to clientele of Community Intervention Associates of Nogales, who come monthly for a dedicated food service.

Our supporting host, where the Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility would likely be located, will provide the land. The location is on a major northern Sahuarita roadway, two miles from I-10. We are presently working to establish dedicated transportation from other areas of clientele high-density; e.g., Summit View area of southern Tucson, to our supporting host; these services would be continued when the new facility is established.

As the demand for food services has increased in southern Pima County, the Sahuarita Food Bank has relieved the high capacity strain on the Green Valley Community Food Bank and several neighboring non-Community Food Bank pantries.

3. Partnerships: In addition to working food-distribution partnerships with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, the Green Valley Community Food Bank, and the Amado Food Bank, we have established working partnerships with the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, the United Community Health Center of Green Valley, First Things First of Arizona, and CareMore.

With the Sahuarita Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility in place, we will be able to host satellite offices and educational spaces for other social-service organizations, thereby providing 'one stop shopping' for our common clientele.

4. Other Funding Sources or Matches: We have received \$30,000 in Pima County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for 2013-14 for a closely related project (commercial walk-in refrigerator) that will be integrated into the Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility when funding for the total facility becomes available. We presently have another funding request pending for support of this related project.

Poster Frost Mirto, a Tucson architectural and conservation firm frequently consulted by Pima County community development agencies, has commenced preliminary design of the Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility and can provide initial planning documents as required for further evaluation.

5. Education and Workforce Training: In addition to providing direct nutritional support, our Snak Paks volunteers provide nutritional information for our primary-grade 'at risk' children. CareMore staffs a table with our food pantry and dispenses educational materials in addition to personal hygiene items.

With the Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility in place, we can support workforce, nutritional, and parenting workshops along with other educational sessions hosted by our partner organizations.

6. Advances Board Adopted Principles of Sustainability and Conservation: The Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility will be built to LEEDS Silver or Gold standard. It is expected that solar electric generation and rain-water harvesting will be incorporated in the building. The designing architectural firm, Poster Frost Mirto of Tucson, which specializes in working with local non-profits and often is involved with Pima County development agency projects, is familiar with designing for our desert environment and for ensuring environmental sustainability and conservation.

7. Previously Authorized Bond Projects or Programs that are Now Short of Funding: Not applicable.

8. Phasing of Large Projects: We have been awarded a CDBG contract with Pima County for \$30,000 toward construction of a walk-in reefer that would be incorporated into the Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility as Pima County bond funding (plus other funds presently being sought) become available.

9. Impact on Operating and Maintenance Costs for Governments and Commitment to Fund These Ongoing Costs: The Multi-Agency Community-Service Facility will be supported by the Sahuarita Food Bank and other partnering organizations using the facility. Operating and maintenance costs for government agencies will approximate that of any other privately owned energy-efficient structure of this size.

10. Project or Program is a Capital Improvement, Not a Repair or Maintenance Project: This project is a new capital improvement.