

429.7 Sahuarita Food Bank & Multi-Agency Facility

Location: Sahuarita, Arizona

Scope: Approximately 6,000 square foot climate-controlled facility with multiple offices, warehouse, outdoor pad for cooler and freezer/dry storage units, and parking to house the Sahuarita Food Bank (approximately 4,000 square feet) plus other local and governmental and community social service and educational organizations (approximately 2,000 square feet). The Good Shepherd UCC will provide the land for the facility, which will be adjacent to, but separate from the sanctuary and other facilities. The Sahuarita Food Bank acknowledges that if the County bond funding passes, Pima County would place a lien on the facility for a period of 20 years to ensure the long-term use and public benefit of the facility.

Benefits: The Sahuarita Food Bank, an agency of the Community Food Bank, is located at The Good Shepherd UCC at 17750 S. La Canada Dr. in Sahuarita. It serves an ever-increasing number of nutritionally at-risk individuals and households in Sahuarita and southern Tucson, including South Nogales Highway south of Tucson airport and the food-insecure community of Summit. After four years of service, food bank operations are rapidly outgrowing the space in the current facility. A building of 4,000 square feet would allow service growth for emergency food demands. An additional 2,000 square feet would provide office and service space for other community agencies with which the Sahuarita Food Bank is establishing collaborative partnerships to address root causes of food insecurity.

Total Cost Estimate: \$1,513,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$300,000

Other Funding Estimate: \$1,213,000 - The Sahuarita Food Bank is seeking other funding.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: Planning and design at \$109,000, construction at \$1,404,000

Implementation Periods: 1

Project Schedule by Major Task: Planning and design at 12 months, construction at 12-18 months

Project Manager: Pima County would provide project management oversight, including brief review of the drawings, ensuring that the procurement process is consistent with County policies, and oversight of construction. (Project requested by Sahuarita Food Bank)

Operator: Sahuarita Food Bank

Regional Benefits: Residents of Sahuarita and southern Tucson, including the South Nogales Highway corridor and Corona de Tucson will be primary beneficiaries. The Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona confirmed that the greatest need for food and related services is in these areas. The Town of Sahuarita does not have a food bank or social services, yet one-third of the children at Sahuarita schools are eligible for free and reduced-price lunches. Almost every child at the Summit View Elementary School is eligible (97 percent). This food bank and multi-agency service center approach is an opportunity to provide, at one location, not only food but also services that can assist families in achieving economic self-sufficiency.

Transportation is often a significant challenge for these families, so access to services at one location is a benefit. It also allows the relevant agencies to bring services to clients they might not otherwise serve. Today, the Sahuarita Food Bank and/or The Good Shepherd UCC have providers using their facilities or relationships with the United Way of Southern Arizona, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, United Community Health Services, Valley Assistance Services, the Amado-Sahuarita Adult Learning Program, the Sahuarita Unified School District, the Pima County Attorney's Office Community Justice Board, and Alcoholics Anonymous. WIC, unemployment, tax-preparation representatives and others could use the new facility to provide services.