

CDBG Success Story

Sahuarita Food Bank & Resource Center

Pima County, AZ: Town of Sahuarita



Carlos Valles, Executive Director
cvalles@sfb-crc.org
(520) 777-7675



Daniel Sullivan, Director
Joel Gastelum, Community
Development Div. Manger
Joel.gastelum@pima.gov
(520)724-7700

Project Cost - \$4.5 million
Funding sources: Pima County CDBG,
Town of Sahuarita ARPA, local business
community & many private donors.

Problem or need addressed:

Since inception in 2009, demand for needed services increased 30% Year Over Year, with Sahuarita Food Bank (SFB) operating out of a church pantry, being one of only two non-profits serving low income residents in the greater Sahuarita community which also lacked resources to help low income residents increase their income.

Solution:

In 2015, the need for a dedicated facility to house the food bank along with a multi-agency service center was envisioned so as to create a one-stop service hub and expand the organization's missions. Beginning in 2016, SFB took a leadership role in addressing poverty in their community; Multiple projects and pilot work began under the Pima County "Ending Poverty Now" initiative and SFB begins to develop plans to expand operations with support from the local business community and Pima County. A one-stop hub helps to address transportation challenges faced by many participants.

Results:

After four years of consulting with the community, planning, fundraising, designing and construction, the food bank opened a new 14,300 square foot building in early 2022 which includes a food storage warehouse, a commercial kitchen offering nutrition classes & culinary training, as well a community resource center with a health sciences resource room providing classes for Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and care giver training. Co-locating services is a southern Arizona innovation. A one-stop hub helps to address transportation challenges faced by many participants. With the opening of the new facility, the SFB-CRC now has the space and human capacity to address increased numbers of hungry people and kids, as well as the long-term goal of supporting residents' journeys to economic self-sufficiency.

