



Tribal Funding – 2015-2021

- **White Mountain Apache Tribe:** Ndee Bikiyaa (the People’s Farm) received a \$125,000 grant in partnership with the NARBHA Institute for the Ndee (Apache) Community Food Pipeline Project. The project will create a tribal food-safety policy that reinvigorates the community’s capacity to produce, package and sell wild-harvested and traditionally farmed foods (2018-2020).
- **Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture programmatic work:** In 2018, \$35,700 was allocated to fund the “Healthy Community Starts in School” program to change and/or install new policies and regulations within the school to address cost and infrastructure support for school gardens, and introduce local foods into the cafeteria. Should also help to prepare students for careers in agriculture and food industry.

In 2019, the Ajo Center received \$140,000 to support legislative policy changes to provide state match funding for agricultural apprenticeships for young and beginning farmers, ranchers and others in the food system. The coalition will raise general awareness of characteristics and challenges of Arizona’s agriculture, as well as develop a shared system for administering the apprenticeships to support implementation of legislation once passed. This will include determining qualifications for the farmers and organizations to host apprentices. This program involves the Tohono O’odham Nation as well as other local groups.

- **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona** was awarded \$125,000 grant to create a value food chain supplying local produce to community hospitals and schools. The project now includes 18 Cochise County farms supplying produce to five community institutions and has generated over \$110,000 in revenue to date. This program included tribal farmers along with other small farmers.
- **Flagstaff Shelter Services:** In 2019, Flagstaff Shelter received # for culturally-sensitive Housing-focused Care Teams (HCTs) to be developed to address the intersection of access to care and affordable housing. HCTs, comprised of an FSS Housing Case Manager, a North Country Healthcare primary care provider, and a behavioral health provider from The Guidance Center, will work in coordination to improve housing and health outcomes among individuals experiencing homelessness. The HCTs will stabilize acute physical and behavioral health needs to utilize a lower level of housing (rapid rehousing) which is available in the Flagstaff area compared to permanent supportive housing which is not available in the area. This program services a variety of tribal community members.
- **Coffee Pot Farms:** In 2018 five incubator projects were awarded a total of \$16,129, with one of them being Coffee Pot Farms. Ya’at’eeh, Coffee Pot Farms intends to promote holistic wellness through workshops, fresh and affordable produce production and a sustainable community-supported agriculture (CSA) program. Residents will increase their capacity to grow and enjoy nutrient-dense foods that are currently lacking in Teesto. Through its success, Coffee Pot Farms will be making the healthy choice the easy choice.

- **\$25,000 Health Equity grant to the United Way of Northern Arizona in support of the COVID-19 Social Safety-Net Services Coalition.** Funding supported operational and programming efforts, including: 1) fortify existing service providers to meet rapidly expanding demands for housing, food, and emergency cash assistance; 2) attract and align resources to maximize impact through a coordinated and collaborative effort; 3) communicate information to promote open, inclusive, and timely information sharing among social safety-net providers in order to develop assistance strategies, involve funders, and inform policy makers regarding the service demands and responses; and 4) mobilize the delivery of emergency resources through a strategic framework that identified service gaps and emerging issues.
- **\$30,000 Health Equity grant to Pima County.** Funding compliments CDC support to identify and address drivers of vaccine hesitancy, influential community messengers and partners, and development of community-acceptable approaches for improving vaccination availability, accessibility, and confidence. Funding matches grants from the Tucson Foundations to support the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Program that will compensate or incentivize community messengers and includes authentic co-design and collaboration with community members across part of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation, and areas in South Tucson.
- **\$25,000 Health Equity grant to Awakening Wholeness, Inc.- Peace and Balance (P&B).** Funding will support P&B’s efforts to address the needs of the tribal people during the pandemic, including: 1) mobilizing tribal partners to gather, haul, and distribute resources; 2) raising supplies, food, water, and firewood to haul to reservation communities; 3) distributing hand sanitizers, facemasks, and winter clothing; 4) purchasing water jugs to be filled at local water resources and delivered to those with limited access to water, resources, and supplies; 5) prioritizing elders and medicine people in Tribal Nations; and 6) organizing and mobilizing teams of volunteers to work immediately on various distribution trips.
- **\$25,000 Health Equity grant to Arizona Community Foundation for Native American Initiative –** Funding will be utilized to hire a consultant to assist in the development of the Initiative, which includes writing proposals to address COVID19-specific effects in Indian Country. It is necessary to support staff time for this project, as all the twenty-plus members of the NAI are full-time employees of differing organizations. It is anticipated that once the infrastructure is created, staff support at this level will no longer be necessary as the Co-Chairs can then work the process that’s been created. It is anticipated that the infrastructure process would be completed in three to four months after funding is received, but no later than August 2021.

Statewide Initiatives

- **AZ Community Health Workers Association (AzCHOW):** Received a \$122,999 grant to support and manage the development of a voluntary certification program for Arizona’s community health workers (CHWs). Voluntary certification of CHWs (2018 approved by the state legislature) will recognize the positive impact of this workforce on the health of Arizonans, from providing health education and supporting pre-natal care to helping community members manage their asthma and diabetes (2017-2019).
- **AZ Food Systems Network:** Vitalyst has pulled together food system coalitions from around the state to share resources, best practices and look for collaborations to reduce hunger and improve healthy food access. Tribal food networks are included with other communities. (2019-21)
- **AZ Mobile Integrated Healthcare Network:** (\$100,000 over 3 years, plus two \$125,000 Innovation Grants: total \$350,000 over 3 years) Vitalyst has served to convene and influence leaders in Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) with a specific focus on evolving the emergency medical services system through

Community Paramedicine and Treat & Refer Recognition Program in AZ and Nationally. Vitalyst has provided technical assistance and convening to identify and utilize sustainable sources of revenue as well support establishing a statewide coalition AZ MIH Network. This includes tribal emergency services.

- **Cover AZ Coalition:** For more than 8 years, Vitalyst has helped support a statewide coalition to increase access in health insurance and facilitate enrollment in Medicaid and the Federal Marketplace. Support has included training for enrollment navigators and assisters, training, media outreach and enrollment support activities. The coalition includes more than 400 partnerships with organizations around the state.