

Matt Felix

From: Judy Lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 8:30 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Re:Emergency funding for refugee services in Pima County

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Pima County Board of Supervisors

33 N Stone Ave

11 Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

October 30, 2025

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Judy Lynch, and I reside in Pima County. I am writing to you today to ask you to support emergency funding for our refugee neighbors in need in Pima County. On November 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts, which removed refugees from eligibility for SNAP- creating a total loss of food assistance for newly arrived refugees.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes.

I care about this issue because I have helped newly arriving refugees as a volunteer for the last 10 years with basic needs to assist them in adjusting to a new Country. I know they come with little to no financial

resources and need the services refugee resettlement agencies provide them to get a good start so they can contribute to society. Refugees contribute much to our society and economy over time. Please support the above needs.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Judy Lynch

14200 N Alyssum Way

Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Matt Felix

From: Laura Porfirio [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:45 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for food assistance

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Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

As a former Pima College educator who worked with hundreds of refugee families and a current member of the **Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)** board of directors, I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For over 20 years, **IRN** has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food initiatives that reduce food waste, and hunger.

Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean **backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community.

Without the crucial support of SNAP in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders), increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Most sincerely,

Laura Porfirio

IRN board director

Matt Felix

From: jodi perin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 6:14 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Reconciliation package (HR 1)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jodi Perin and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1 refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.

Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Jodi Perin

Zip Code: 85716

Matt Felix

From: Maggie A [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 9:50 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Regarding Reconciliation Package (HR 1)

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Maggie Abernathy and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1 refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services.

Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DOJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.

Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term

members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Maggie Abernathy
9555 E. Shiloh St. #16103
Tucson, AZ 85748

Matt Felix

From: Judith Rockey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:14 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Please submit To the Board in Advance of Nov 4th Meeting

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Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For 22 years, **Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)** has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively **harvesting, gleaned, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

We recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders) , increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,
Timothy and Judith Rockey

Iskashitaa Refugee Network allies, donors, and supporters

Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N Stone Ave
11 Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

October 30, 2025

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Eve Broughton, and I reside in Pima County. I am writing to you today to ask you to **support** emergency funding for our refugee neighbors in need in Pima County. On November 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts, which removed refugees from eligibility for SNAP- creating a **total loss of food assistance** for newly arrived refugees.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes.

I care about this issue because I work with Lutheran Social services who have brought productive legal immigrants into Pima County and who are working hard to assimilate. The legal immigrants worked through the system jumping all the hoops, they deserve our support for basic needs

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy. The state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


CE 5070 02/15/2025 03:10:10

Eve L. Broughton
10525 E. Calle Vaqueros
Tucson, AZ 85749

Board Member, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

Matt Felix

From: M Mynhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 4:32 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Reconciliation Package (H.R.1)

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Maureen Moynihan and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (H.R.1) on our newest refugee neighbors.

On Nov 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the H.R.1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community.

I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the

residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

I have volunteered with one of the local resettlement agencies & know that people who have had to flee their countries work very hard at rebuilding their lives. Pima County needs to assist these people who have lost so much.

Sincerely,
Maureen Moynihan
2814 W Jennie Lane 85713


Matt Felix

From: Katrina Martinez <kmartinez@prescott.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 8:04 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: A message and request of urgency

You don't often get email from kmartinez@prescott.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Katrina and I am a resident of Pima County, I have been for the last 11 years. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (H.R.1) on our newest refugee neighbors.

On Nov 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the H.R.1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community.

I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations such as International Rescue Committee and Lutheran Social Services are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda. Currently, it is a requirement to be fluent in English to participate in state workforce programs - this eliminates thousands of hard working, eligible refugees from services that are supposed to help the local economy and workforce.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,
Katrina Martinez
Ward 3, Hedrick Acres


Matt Felix

From: Mark Frederick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 9:54 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Food for Pima County Refugees

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Hi,

by Monday, 11/3.

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Mark C. Frederick, and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1 refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- * Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- * Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services:
- * Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- * Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Frederick

Zip Code: 85718

Matt Felix

From: Toni Richardson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 12:07 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support Our Refugee Neighbors

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To the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Toni Richardson and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the reconciliation package(HR!) on our newest refugee neighbors. On November 1st, refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts, creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient, rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs.
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs, assistance and accredited legal services: refugees serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic need coordination, and also our doj accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the addendum agenda.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Respectfully Yours,
Toni K Richardson

Matt Felix

From: fran donnellan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 4:31 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Protecting Refugee Access to Food Assistance

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To: Pima County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For 22 years, **Iskashitaa Refugee Network** (IRN) has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively **harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

We recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders), increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,

Frances Donnellan
Iskashitaa Supporter

Matt Felix

From: Paul Rawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 5:04 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Reconciliation package (HR 1)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Paul Rawson and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1 refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs

Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DOJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.

Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Paul Rawson

Zip Code: 85716

November 2, 2025

To: Pima County Board of Supervisors

Email: cob_mail@pima.gov

Subject: Stand Up for Our Neighbors' Access to Essential Nutrition Programs

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

As a student at the University of Arizona and a volunteer with the Iskashitaa Refugee Network, I am writing as a concerned community member who deeply values the dignity and well-being of our UN refugee and asylum-seeking neighbors. Refugees come to our county seeking safety and opportunity, and in turn, they enrich our communities through their hard work, culture, and generosity.

Can you recall the last refugee you spoke with in person? How you felt inspired by their bravery, and saddened by the unfortunate circumstances that forced them to leave their homes? I can. They are among the strongest, kindest, and most grateful people I've ever met. Because of this, I have been volunteering and collaborating with the Iskashitaa Refugee Network since 2012, when it became immediately evident to me how IRN has helped strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on food rescue, education, and community-building. We Tucsonans are better citizens of the world when we connect with people from other perspectives and experiences.

As you know, IRN gleans tens of thousands of pounds of produce each year—often from local backyards—and donates it to those in need, including refugee and asylee families. This work nurtures self-reliance and strengthens the connections that help Pima County thrive.

With that in mind, I strongly urge the Board to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and any related cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For refugees in their first years of resettlement—when they are learning English, developing job skills, and building stable lives—SNAP provides the foundation for food and housing security, the most basic needs that everyone deserves. Reducing or removing access to these benefits would make it much harder for families to succeed and become self-sufficient.

If you stood before a room full of these refugee families who strive every day just to find stability for themselves and their children, could you look them in the eyes and tell them that they don't deserve to eat? I hope that question stays with you as you consider how essential this support is for the people who call Pima County home.

I respectfully ask the Board to take every possible action to advocate with DES and state leadership to safeguard SNAP access and mitigate any harmful consequences of federal

NOV 03 2025 09:27 AM

November 2, 2025

policy changes. Ensuring that all Pima County residents, including our newest neighbors, have reliable access to nutritious food will strengthen our community as a whole.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,

Emily Rockey

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Volunteer, Iskashitaa Refugee Network
University of Arizona Graduate Student
Concerned Tucsonan

Matt Felix

From: patricia scanlan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 6:28 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Emergency funding

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Pat Scanlan, and I reside in Pima County. I am writing to ask you to support emergency funding for our refugee neighbors in our county. As I am sure you know, as of yesterday due to HR1 SNAP cuts, refugee families will no longer have access to funding for food and other essentials for living.

I ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs.
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes.

I care about this issue, because many refugees have been here for years; they came here in order to create a life that is safe for intergenerational families. They came to this country in order to live, to work, to survive. They make economic and workforce contributions to our communities.

Refugees are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Scanlan
10270 N. Valle del Oro Drive
Tucson 85737

Matt Felix

From: Rawia Soliman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:35 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Protecting Refugee Access to Food Assistance

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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To: Pima County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For 22 years, **Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)** has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively **harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

We recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders) , increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely

Iskashitaa Refugee Network volunteer

Best regards

Rawia Soliman

[REDACTED]

4860 E chickweed Dr

Tucson, AZ, 85756

Matt Felix

From: Callie Tippet <CallieTippet@resourcesvail.org>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 9:22 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: In Support of Funding for Local Food Banks

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Dear County Supervisors,

I'm writing in strong support of the assistance Pima County is proposing for the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona and the Sahuarita Food Bank. The need for food assistance in our community has grown at an alarming rate in the last year and is exacerbated by the Federal Government shutdown.

At ReSources Vail Food Bank, the demand for help continues to climb sharply:

- In **September 2024**, we served **566 unique households**; in **September 2025**, that number rose to **761** — a **34% increase**.
- In **October 2024**, we served **671 households**; in **October 2025**, we served **868** — a **29% increase**.

These increases reflect what we're hearing from families every day. Inflation continues to push the cost of groceries and household essentials higher, while ongoing **federal furloughs** have left many local workers suddenly without income. On top of that, **reductions in SNAP benefits** are hitting **low-income seniors and families with children** especially hard.

We anticipate that the need for food assistance will grow even further in the immediate future. Local food banks are doing everything possible to meet the increased demand, but we cannot do it alone. County support will ensure that food resources for those most in need are stabilized.

Thank you for recognizing the urgency of this issue and for considering action that will help sustain the health and well-being of our community.

With appreciation,

Callie Tippet
Executive Director
Greater Vail Community ReSources
ReSources Vail Food Bank
Vail Depot Thrift Store
520-210-7415

"Improving lives by feeding Greater Vail's hungry and assisting with basic needs."

AGENDA MATERIAL

Matt Felix

DATE 11-4-25 ITEM NO. PA11,12,
13,14,17-20

From: Jane Orient [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 5:49 PM
To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB_mail
Subject: BoS agenda

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apologize for blank message sent by accident

item #11

We don't want people to be hungry, and we object to Americans being held hostage to try to force passage of \$1 trillion in spending that the majority object to. But we need to help the hungry. It is disastrous that so many have been lured into dependency for the basics. SNAP is supposed to be temporary help, not generational dependency. We will surely hear sad stories, but taxpayers are losing patience with households who have members able to work and with persons ineligible for benefits because of immigration status. We should make assistance available to those who truly need it--not those who sell their cards to get cash for drugs or other things they prefer. Maybe people need to present id to collect, like for alcohol.

item #12

A lot of money is being given to supposedly religious charitable agencies. How many people could be fed and housed if the money didn't go to these intermediaries? Are they following immigration laws?

#13 and 14

Control of crime should be #1 priority. It affects everyone, especially the poor and the homeless. Maybe work assignments like trash and graffiti removal would be more effective than jail.

#17-20

The government's job is to serve the people not megacorporations like unreliable energy sources that cannot survive without subsidies or "data centers" that produce nothing tangible and might turn out to be the biggest financial bubble in history. If they are so wonderful they need to be able to pay for themselves.

--
Jane M. Orient, MD
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Matt Felix

From: Tom McKinney <tmckinney@icstucson.org>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 9:38 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Emergency Support for Food

You don't often get email from tmckinney@icstucson.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Tom McKinney a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today about the impacts of the SNAP cuts. Many of our fellow community members will struggle to put food on their tables due to these cuts. At a time when we should be focused on how to best keep our members healthy.

The funds from SNAP help many people including the working poor maintain some semblance of balance in their lives. The withholding of these funds will have a cascading impact in forcing community members to choose between food and rent or food and utilities or food and health care. All of these are not good choices. Our community food banks can help but only with increased funding.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of Pima County residents and invest in food that will ensure people can feed their family and remain somewhat economic stability. I urge you to support:

- **Emergency funding for community food banks** to address immediate needs

As a resident of Pima County and the CEO of Interfaith Community Services I have already seen the impact of SNAP cuts. The lines for the food bank have dramatically increase and we are seeing people who have not been to the food bank in years or have never needed a foodbank. Please take action to ensure Pima County residents are supported.

Sincerely,

Tom McKinney

4820 E. Fort Lowell Avenue
2820 W. Ina Road

Cell #:612-280-4970

Tom McKinney



Tom McKinney
Chief Executive Officer
Interfaith Community Services
2820 W. Ina Rd. | Tucson, AZ 85741
Direct: 520.526.9292
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