

DR. MATT HEINZ

Supervisor
District 2



33 N Stone Ave., 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 724-2702
district2@pima.gov

Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

From: Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "MH", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Date: October 22, 2025

RE: November 4, 2025, Agenda:
FY26 Emergency Funding for Refugee Resettlement Agencies Serving Pima County

Please place this on the 11/4/25 Agenda. I request that it be heard at a Time Certain of 10:45 AM.

Board of Supervisors

Discussion/Direction/Action: Directing the County Administration to send Emergency Funding in the amount of \$250,000 each, to the three Refugee Resettlement Agencies serving Pima County: **IRC of Arizona, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, and Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona** (\$750,000 in total funding, FY26), for the purposes of supporting refugees, asylees and others they serve to complete the process of applying for Legal Permanent Resident ("Green Card") status and related services. The funding shall come from the approximately \$8.38M in extra, unencumbered and unrestricted **Beginning General Fund Balance** with which the County began Fiscal Year 2025/26, per the most recent Financial Update provided to the Board. (Projected Beginning General Fund Balance of \$126,746,493 as of July 1, 2025, rather than the budgeted amount which was \$118,366,104.)

As was made clear at the October 21st Board of Supervisors meeting, because of Trump's "Big Ugly Bill," refugees, asylees and others who have not yet adjusted their status to Legal Permanent Resident -- though legally here and legally authorized to work, and though they are paying taxes! -- have now lost access to basic social safety net supports like SNAP (as of 11/1/25), AHCCCS (as of 10/1/26) and Medicare (as of 1/1/27) as well. The more legally present refugees, asylees, and others whom we can help to adjust their status to Legal Permanent Resident (all taxpaying members of our community already!), the more members of our community who will continue to benefit from the basic social safety net programs that we all contribute to, and we all rely on.

For a detailed breakdown of H.R.1's impact on refugees and other noncitizens lawfully present in the United States: <https://refugees.org/h-r-1s-impacts-on-refugees-and-forcibly-displaced-populations/>

cc: Jan Leshner, Pima County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Art Cuaron, Director, Finance & Risk Management Department