



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 14, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher 
County Administrator

Re: Additional Information for the Board of Supervisors September 6, 2022 Meeting - Clarifying Food and Shelter for the Southwest Border Initiative and the Emergency Shelter Program – Consent Items Nos. 9 and 12

This memorandum provides the Board of Supervisors with information to clarify food and shelter for two different programs: 1) The Southwest Border Initiative, serving U.S. southern border asylum seekers; and 2) The Emergency Shelter Program, serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Comfort Suites – Two County Programs: One Shelter Site

The Emergency Shelter Program is implemented at only one shelter site: the Comfort Suites hotel located near the intersection of South Tucson Boulevard and East Valencia Road (Comfort Suites/Airport). To maximize cost efficiencies, the Southwest Border Initiative also uses this hotel. Therefore, this is the only hotel where two different programs are receiving food deliveries from the same vendor. Table 1, below, details food vendor, funding sources, and responsible parties for each program at this Comfort Suites/Airport, which was leased for both programs since the beginning of Calendar Year 2022.

Table 1.

Food and Shelter: Comfort Suites/Airport			
	Food Vendor	Grant Revenue	Responsible Parties
Southwest Border Initiative Serving asylum seekers	World Dining	FEMA EFSP pursuant to ARPA 2021, Section 4008 FEMA EFSP pursuant to DHS Appropriations Act, 2022, Title V, Section 543	January 2022 through May 2022: Catholic Community Services June 2022 through to-date: The Inn (contracted as a subrecipient by Pima County)
Emergency Shelter Program Serving homeless families	World Dining	ARPA Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	County Staff (Department of Community Workforce & Development)

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As the above table clarifies, the only vendor delivering food to Comfort Suites/Airport is World Dining, L.L.C. Food delivery orders are communicated daily and separately by each of the two program staffs to Grants Management & Innovation (GMI), the administering department for the food vendor master agreement. Daily food deliveries to Comfort Suites/Airport are therefore segregated by program, which also translates to cost segregation since food expenses for each program are covered by separate grants.

Casa Alitas Welcome Center, Red Roof Inn/Irvington, Comfort Suites, Grand Luxe, Overflow Sites- One County Program: Many Shelter Sites

In June 2022, Southwest Border Initiative major partners – the County, the City of Tucson, and Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona – worked together on several fronts to prepare for a significant surge in asylum seeker releases forecast by U.S. Department of Homeland Security agencies (e.g., Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP)). To respond proactively to this surge, GMI worked with the Procurement Department to amend the food vendor master agreement to authorize overflow food deliveries to overflow shelter sites, including Grand Luxe Hotel, Hyatt Place and Casita Maria.

Now, three months later, Southwest Border Initiative partners are actively engaging surging asylum seeker release numbers. Table 2, below, provides an up-to-date overview of shelter sites and food provision for both the Southwest Border Initiative as well as the Emergency Rental Program. The table also identifies room capacity, funding sources, COVID-negative versus COVID-positive usage, overflow status, and food services vendor.

Table 2.

Food and Shelter: Southwest Border Initiative						
	<i>Casa Alitas Welcome Center</i>	<i>Red Roof Inn</i>	<i>Comfort Suites (Airport)</i>	<i>Comfort Inn (Kino)</i>	<i>Grand Lux Hotel</i>	<i>Additional Overflow Sites</i> Lease negotiations and building modifications in process
Southwest Border Initiative	39 rooms FEMA EFSP funded COVID negative asylum seekers Food provided by World Dining	113 rooms FEMA EFSP funded COVID positive asylum seekers Food provided by World Dining	40 rooms FEMA EFSP funded Overflow for COVID Negative Food provided by World Dining	65 rooms FEMA EFSP funded Overflow for COVID Negative Food provided by World Dining	85 rooms FEMA EFSP funded Overflow for COVID Negative Food provided by World Dining	Will be FEMA EFSP funded Overflow for COVID negative Food provided by World Dining and Broadway Hotel One

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Most recently, GMI worked with Procurement to solicit a second food vendor to deploy as needed during surge times. Once this solicitation process was complete and the back-up vendor was selected (Broadway Hotel One, Inc. (dba Ramada by Wyndham Viscount Suites Tucson)), GMI processed an amendment for MA-PO-22-84 (Item No. 12 on the September 6, 2022 Board of Supervisors Consent Calendar).

Planning proactively for food and shelter across sites with vendors and partners ensures that the County and its partners can feed and shelter asylum seekers efficiently and effectively. In doing so, we support them on their way to their sponsor families as expeditiously as possible, while also preventing street releases.

JKL/dym

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Regina Kelly, Director, Grants Management & Innovation