



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: July 06, 2021

Title: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant FY 2021

Introduction/Background:

The funds made available under this Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) will provide supplementary funding to Department of Community & Workforce Development (CWD) Home Repair & Weatherization program in order to provide additional assistance to low- and very-low income individual homeowners who live in rural, unincorporated Pima County.

Discussion:

The Pima County CWD Home Repair Program funding objective is to secure a variety of funding sources that support the implementation of a sustained, long-term home repair program that will assist in making home repairs that otherwise are not affordable for low-income households in rural and unincorporated areas of Pima County. Participating in the current competition for USDA Section 533 monies directly addresses this funding objective.

Conclusion:

If Pima County is selected by USDA to receive Section 533 monies, up to \$50,000 will be available for Housing Rehabilitation, Emergency Repair, and Weatherization for low-income and very-low-income homeowners in rural, unincorporated Pima County

Recommendation:

Department of Community & Workforce Development recommends approval to apply for these available grant funds to leverage and support current home repair and weatherization funds and activities to provide additional assistance to low- and very-low income individual homeowners who live in rural, unincorporated Pima County.

Fiscal Impact:

This would be a grant award to Pima County. There is no fiscal impact to the general fund.

Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

Department: Community & Workforce Development (CWD) Telephone: 724-6765

Contact: Josué Licea Telephone: 724-6765

Department Director Signature/Date: *Daniel P. Lee* 6/22/21

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: *Jon* 23 June 2021

County Administrator Signature/Date: *C. Rudek* 6/23/21

RESOLUTION 2021 - ____

**PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION FOR THE PRE-APPLICATION FOR
AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPTANCE OF
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SECTION 533 RURAL HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT FUNDS**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. The Rural Housing Service ("RHS") of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") released a Notice of Solicitation for Awards ("NOSA"), stating their intention to award funds from the FY2021 Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant Program.
2. Section 533 provides funding to qualified public agencies to assist low- and very low-income homeowners in rural areas in repairing and rehabilitating their homes.
3. To be eligible to apply for Section 533 funds a public agency must meet the threshold criteria in 7 CFR § 1944.679.
4. Per these criteria, Pima County, through the Department of Community Workforce & Development ("CWD"), is eligible to apply for Section 533 funds.
5. If awarded, the Section 533 funding would increase, not duplicate, current capacity to provide housing rehabilitation and repair for low- and very low-income homeowners in rural areas of unincorporated Pima County.
6. It is in the best interests of the residents of Pima County to apply for and accept grant funds awarded by the USDA for the purposes set forth in the NOSA and summarized in Pima County's Statement of Activities (**EXHIBIT A**).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

A. CWD is directed to submit to USDA RHS a pre-application for Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant funding in the amount of \$50,000.00; and,

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B. If any funds are awarded pursuant to the pre-application:

1. The County will accept the funding and adhere to the requirements of the grant; and,
2. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to:
 - i. Sign the Grant Agreement and any documents associated with the award of Section 533 funds; and,
 - ii. If required by USDA RHS, authorize staff to enter any data relating to the acceptance of the Section 533 funds into the federal database.

Passed and adopted, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Clerk of the Board

Stacey Roseberry, Deputy County Attorney

EXHIBIT A

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR USDA SECTION 533 HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT FY2021 PROPOSED BY PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant (FY 2021)

The Pima County Community & Workforce Development Department (CWD) intends to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) for federal Fiscal Year 2021. The proposed grant would provide supplementary funding to CWD's Home Repair Program in order to provide additional assistance to low-income individual homeowners who live in rural, unincorporated Pima County.

Housing preservation assistance includes home repair and rehabilitation services, such as:

Installation and/or repair of sanitary water and waste disposal systems, together with related plumbing and fixtures; Energy conservation measures such as insulation, sun screen, energy efficient appliances, duct sealing, and reflective roof coating; Repair or replacement of the heating and cooling systems; Electrical service upgrades; Repair of, or provision for, structural supports and foundations; Repair or replacement of roofs; Replacement of severely deteriorated siding, porches, or stoops; Alterations of the unit's interior or exterior to provide greater accessibility for any handicapped person; and other related items.

Per federal law, if Pima County CWD is named a grantee for federal Fiscal Year 2021, assistance underwritten by HPG monies must go to the individual homeowners who: "have income that meets the low- or very low-income definitions, be the owner of an individual dwelling at least 1 year prior to the time of assistance, and be the intended occupant of the dwelling subsequent to the time of assistance. The dwelling must be located in a rural area and be in need of housing preservation assistance. Each homeowner is required to submit evidence of income and ownership for retention in the grantee's files."

Priority will be given to very low-income homeowners who are: elderly; have families with children under the age of 18; and/or are disabled. It is likely that all households served will be very low-income. Household income must not exceed the limits listed in the paragraph below. Please note that "Household," per federal law relating to HPG grants, is "defined as all persons living all or part of the next 12 months in a unit or dwelling assisted with HPG funds." In the paragraph below, the number after each household size (e.g., "1 Person") represents the limit for "Low (80%) Income" households, and the corresponding number, in parentheses, is the "Very Low (50%) Income" limit; these limits are the most recent ones published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

HOUSEHOLD SIZE ANNUAL INCOME LIMITS FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS (VERY-LOW INCOME LIMITS SHOWN IN PRENTHESES)

1 Person \$38,450 (\$24,050); 2 Persons \$43,950 (\$27,450); 3 Persons \$49,450 (\$30,900); 4 Persons \$54,900 (\$34,300); 5 Persons \$59,300 (\$37,050); 6 Persons \$63,700 (\$39,800); 7 Persons \$68,100 (\$42,550); 8 Persons \$72,500 (\$45,300).

Income limits are subject to change as per USDA.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the services or eligibility of the Home Repair Program and/or Pima County's grant application, please contact Josue Licea at (520) 724-6765 or by email at Josue.Licea@pima.gov by July 7, 2021, 5:00 p.m. (Tucson time).