

Board Action Request

SUBJECT: USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Funding Program

DATE: January 25, 2023

FROM: Chief Horvath

Background:

Tubac Fire District was notified earlier this month that TFD will be awarded \$2 million for the Station #1 project via Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS). TFD staff applied for the funding last spring; this is the second year we have applied for CDS. As part of the 2022 application we included six letters of support from residents (including TFD Board Chair Mary Dahl and one letter of support from the Tubac Chamber of Commerce. According to Senator Kelly's staff, the support letters were very beneficial to our application. The letters are included with this memo.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Rural Development will allocate CDS funding through the Community Facilities program. While this is not a competitive process, CDS applicants must apply to the Community Facilities program to confirm that all aspects of the project are eligible for funding. After the project is deemed eligible, it will be required to complete RD's feasibility and environmental requirements. After this process is complete, funding will be released to the CDS applicant within 8 to 10 weeks. In Arizona, the USDA Rural Development office in Arizona will be responsible for making funding awards.

Here is additional funding guidance regarding Rural Development (RD) Programs:

- Involve the construction of new buildings or renovation of existing facilities. The development of these facilities involves the need for architectural services for the preparation of plans, specifications, public bidding, contracting, construction, and construction monitoring.
- Applicants, at the earliest possible time, should provide a Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report, including the Cost Estimate, for the review by the RD Area Loan Specialist and RD State Architect. These two documents are needed to determine the project's feasibility. RD's State Architect will evaluate and provide architectural/construction guidance to the Applicants and their Architects, for RD financed architectural projects, in the following areas:
 - Initial site visit & evaluation of the proposed project
 - Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report
 - Agency concurrence of Owner/Architect Agreements
 - Agency acceptance of Plans & Specifications
 - Agency concurrence of Construction Contract documents
 - Construction & construction monitoring

Fiscal Impact:

None

Legal Review: N/A

Alternate Option: Information Only

Staff Recommendation: Information Only

Proposed Motion: Information Only

Attachments:

- Arma Letter of Support
- Maddock Letter of Support
- Nordmann Letter of Support
- Patterson Letter of Support
- Smith Letter of Support
- TFD Board Chair Letter of Support
- Tubac Chamber of Commerce Letter of Support