

Pinal County, Arizona
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2021 Report

Pinal County
2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Pinal County, Arizona was notified in May 2021 of an allocation of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$89,891, 338. Pinal County submitted the required certifications on May 13, 2021 and received Board of Supervisor’s approval to accept the award on May 26, 2021. Pinal County has reviewed the Interim Final Rule dated May 10, 2021 and the Compliance and Reporting Guidance dated June 17, 2021 to ensure program compliance. When determining the use of the funds, Pinal County has taken into consideration the program guidance, allowable activities, and public health and welfare.

Although specific projects have not been identified, Pinal County has determined water and sewer infrastructure as the primary focus and use of the SLFRF funds. The county believes access to adequate water supplies and sewer systems will provide county residents the greatest long term benefit in response to the pandemic and to provide current and future economic recovery. Key outcome goals include:

- Improved access to water supplies
- Improved access to water flows
- Improved access to adequate sewer systems
- New access to water supplies
- New access to adequate sewer systems
- Increase in economic development opportunities
- Increase in private investment
- Improve economic stability within Pinal County

In an effort to identify projects, Pinal County elected officials, management, and staff are determining the most critical projects and infrastructure needs throughout Pinal County to meet the aforementioned outcome goals. Existing efforts and reports including the county’s comprehensive plan, land use, zoning ordinances, open space and trails, aquifer protection, future growth areas, opportunity zones, and employment centres will aid in this effort.

Uses of Funds

Pinal County is committed to an approach that will support a strong and equitable recovery from the pandemic. In determining the use of the funds, the county reviewed demographic data from the U.S. Census to aid in a strategy that will maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes. Pinal County consists of ten municipalities and four tribal communities within 5,386 square miles.

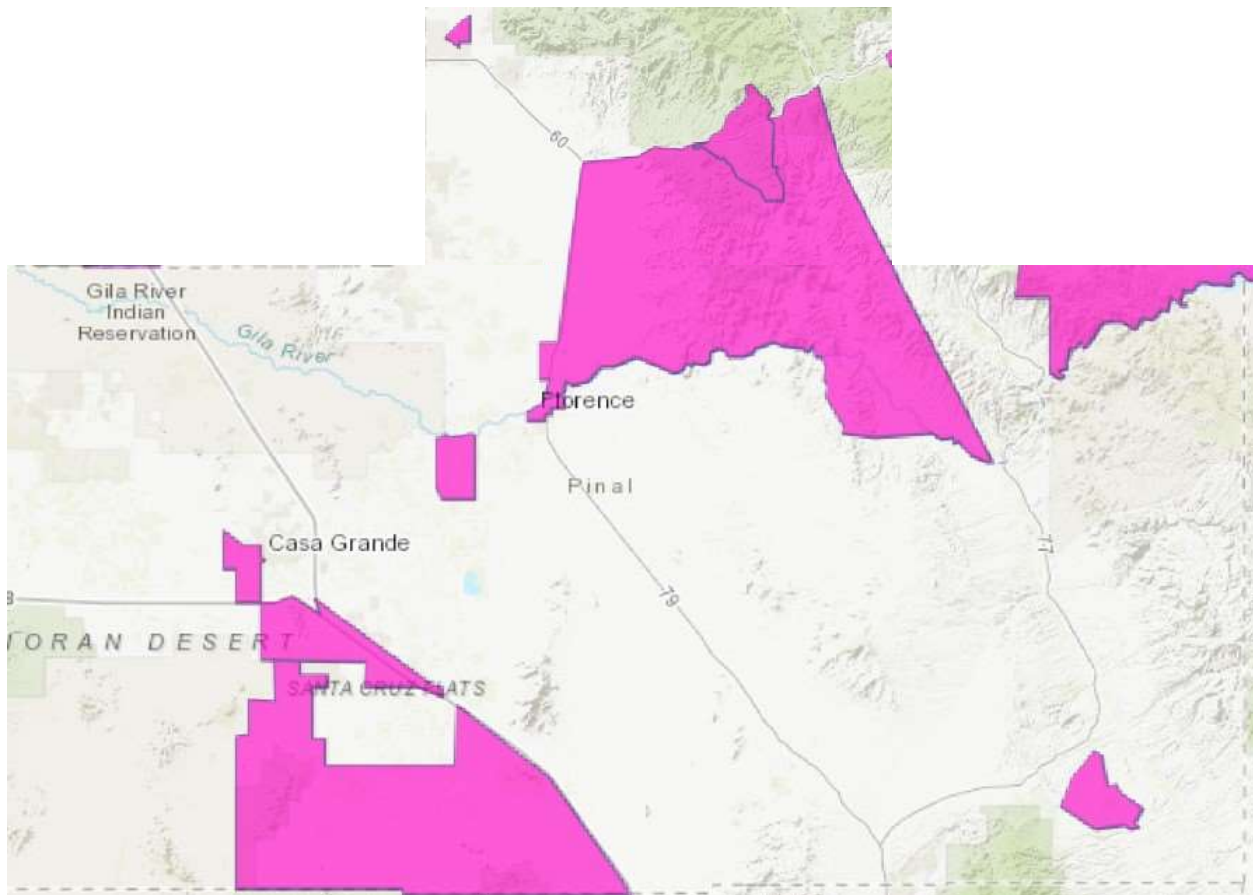
The following demographics were taken from the U.S. Census website and compares Pinal County to the State of Arizona and the United States.

	Pinal County	Arizona	United States
Population	432,793	7,278,717	328,239,523
Median Household Income	\$58,174	\$62,055	\$62,843
Poverty Rate	13.2%	13.5%	12.3%
Employment Rate	45.9%	56.8%	59.6%

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=0500000US04021>

There are eight (8) Opportunity Zones within Pinal County. The following zones include:

- 04021002103 – southern unincorporated Pinal County near Picacho and Red Rock
- 04021001900 – near areas of Eloy, Arizona City, and Stanfield
- 04021001500 – in Casa Grande
- 04021000700 – in unincorporated Pinal County in San Manuel
- 04021001000 – in Coolidge
- 04021002300 – covering unincorporated Pinal County near Florence Junction
- 04021000400 - covering unincorporated Pinal County near Queen Valley
- 04021000310 – in Apache Junction



There are thirteen (13) Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) within Pinal County. The majority of the tracts are generally located in or around the communities of Apache Junction (3.15), Florence (9.01), Coolidge (10), Casa Grande (13.06, 14.06, 15), and Eloy (20.03, 21.02). There are two QCTs within the Gila River Indian Community (9412, 9413), one in the Ak Chin Indian Community (17.01) and two identified within the unincorporated communities of Arizona City (19), and Stanfield (9414).

If future identified projects are not within a QCT, it is anticipated projects completed can be demonstrated to benefit disproportionately effected populations, opportunity zones, and lower income residents within the overall Pinal County community.

Intended Uses

Pinal County intends to allocate the majority of the funding towards EC 5 - Water and Sewer Infrastructure to include new, replacement, or repair of existing infrastructure. Based on the demonstrated need within Pinal County, specific areas will be identified. Pinal County will work with public and private service providers to complete the projects.

Pinal County believes investment in water and sewer infrastructure will help to support a strong and equitable recovery from the pandemic and economic downturn by investing in critical infrastructure. Water and sewer infrastructure impacts the public health and safety of existing residents and the economic welfare of current and future residents, employers, and businesses. Pinal County's Comprehensive Plan dated 2019 includes information on water resources. This component of the plan estimates the potential future water demand associated with existing and projected development, identifies issues relevant to water use and available supplies, and provides management practices for future water supplies including goals and policies.

Potential projects must adhere to regulatory requirements In compliance with Arizona Department of Water Resources. Because Pinal County does not maintain or hold ownership rights to water or sewer resources, the county must work with other public and private organizations on these projects. Pinal County's responsibility lies within developing policy, encouraging the wise use of and protection of water resources within the county, and demonstrating a commitment to the health and welfare of its citizens. Within Pinal County there are ten communities, four tribal communities, four sanitary districts excluding local government publicly owned facilities, and 21 water districts excluding local government facilities.

Actual Uses

No projects have been identified. Several projects are being considered and evaluated based on the funding requirements.

Pandemic Approach

Pinal County is the recipient of various federal program funds under the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. Each program provides restrictions on their use. This has lead the county to determine the use of the SLFRF funding for water and sewer because this is not otherwise covered under other programs.

The following is a brief overview of some of the funds Pinal County received and their intended uses:

- Federal Aviation Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation – Airport related improvements.
- State of Arizona (CARES Act) – salary reimbursement for public health and public safety personnel.
- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission – legal, criminal justice, and victim services.
- Secretary of State – Promoting safe elections

- Community Development Block Grant – nonprofit public services including housing, utilities, food, childcare, and public facility improvements.
- HOME Investment Partnership – housing for persons experiencing homelessness.
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program – providing rent and utilities to households experiencing a hardship due to the pandemic.
- Housing Choice Vouchers – access to housing opportunities.
- Department of Justice – public safety projects.
- Arizona Department of Health Services – COVID testing, vaccinations, and other health related services and projects.
- FEMA – emergency related expenses including personal protective equipment.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Pinal County has not identified projects at the time of this report. However, Pinal County is committed to demonstrating equitable access through promotion and project selection. Pinal County will seek to identify projects that prioritize economic and racial equity with demonstrated results to further bring about economic stability to the county and its residents in response to the pandemic. Pinal County will further demonstrate the impact of our selected projects with quantitative and qualitative data to address the key outcome goals and goals to promote equity as identified below.

Key outcome goals include:

- Improved access to water supplies
- Improved access to water flows
- Improved access to adequate sewer systems
- New access to water supplies
- New access to adequate sewer systems
- Increase in economic development opportunities
- Increase in private investment
- Improve economic stability within Pinal County

Goals to promote equity:

- Complete a minimum of one project within an opportunity zone.
- Complete a minimum of one project within a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated low and moderate income area.
- Complete a minimum of one project that addresses a historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected group.
- Improve awareness through equitable marketing practices.

Based on the projects identified, Pinal County will demonstrate equity and a balanced approach to providing maximum impact within Pinal County. Each project will further demonstrate how the county's demographics are served both through race, ethnicity, age, and income levels.

The following demographics were taken from the U.S. Census website and compares Pinal County to the State of Arizona.

	Pinal County	Arizona
Population	432,793	7,278,717
Median Household Income	\$58,174	\$62,055
Poverty Rate	13.2%	13.5%
Employment Rate	45.9%	56.8%
American Indian	5.4%	4.6%
Asian	1.4%	3.3%
Black or African American	4.6%	4.7%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	.3%	.2%
Some other race	4.7%	5%
Two or More Races	4.4%	3.9%
Caucasian	79.3%	78.3%
Hispanic or Latino	30.7%	31.7%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	56%	54%
Median Age	39.9%	38.3%
18 and older	77%	77.5%
65 and older	19.9%	18%
Disability	15.4%	13.2%

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=0500000US04021>

Community Engagement

Pinal County will provide access to the 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report on the public facing county website at: <https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/GRANTS/Pages/NoticesDocuments.aspx>. Requests for information or to provide input on the use of the SLFRF funding may be directed to the Pinal County Grants Administrator, Heather Patel at (520) 866-6422, via email at heather.patel@pinal.gov. Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact 711.

Information regarding projects and program access funded through the SLFRF will be broadly advertised to the Pinal County community through a variety of media including social media, county website, within all print newspapers county-wide, through the county email newsletter, distributed throughout county departments where historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups are likely to seek information, and through community partners including municipalities, and non-profit organizations that serve historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups.

Labor Practices

Pinal County will include Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) prevailing wage requirements in all infrastructure projects. Staff will ensure compliance with the U.S. Department of Labor (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction>). County staff has experience with federal awards wherein DBRA was applicable. During the procurement process as stipulated in 2 CFR 200, Pinal County will include DBRA language. Pinal County will encourage the contractor to hire low income residents to perform non-professional jobs. Pinal County will also include affirmative marketing practices to encourage to use of minority owned and women owned businesses.

Use of Evidence

Pinal County has not identified projects at this time. Therefore, SLFRF funds will not be used for evidence-based interventions nor will there be projects evaluated through rigorous program evaluations designed to build evidence.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Between the reporting period May 2021 – July 31, 2021, no projects were identified and no funds were expended or encumbered.

PROJECT INVENTORY

No projects have been identified at the time of this report.