

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

2024 Southwestern Giving Guide

*covering Yuma, San Luis,
Mohave, and La Paz counties*

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Each year, the number of grant applications the Arizona Community Foundation receives exceeds the funding we have available. As a service to the Yuma community and our donors, our grant panels compose a list of projects they would have funded, if possible, called the **Southwestern Arizona Giving Guide**.

December 2024 – December 2025 indicates when the nonprofits plan to execute their project. We highly recommend reaching out directly to the nonprofit to find out the status of their project. Please note the funding need is based on the entire project amount and not the amount of the grant request.

For your convenience the grant projects are organized by field of interest: Animal Welfare & Environment, Arts & Culture, Community, Education, and Healthcare.

Not sure which organization to give to, but you would like your charitable gifts to focus on a particular issue? The individual offices have many funds that leverage the power of collective giving. To learn more and donate online, visit: azfoundation.org/ways-to-give/give-locally/

For more information on charitable giving please contact our Regional Director:

Yuma

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Arts & Culture

Arizona Classical Ballet Performing Company - Yuma

Funds will support the introduction of a two-hour production for inner city students who may be experiencing fine art for the first time and bring the magic of literacy to their school. The production will showcase three professional dancers and host a fictional education presentation

Project need: \$11,500

Region served: Yuma

Ballet Yuma

Funds will support the Ballet Bound project, which aims to provide introductory ballet training to school children free of charge, bring ballet to students who otherwise might not have the opportunity. More specifically, funds will pay for teaching staff and travel.

Project need: \$10,500

Region served: Yuma

Bordertown Arts Project

Funds will support the Alice Baca Teaching Kitchen program, providing young people to gain skills in the field of culinary arts and food service. Participants give back to their community by raising funds for families in need and charitable organizations through cooking.

Project need: \$20,000

Region served: Yuma

Children's Museum of Yuma County

Funds will provide reduced admission to EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cardholder visitors through "Museums for All," aiming to expand visitor base up to 1,800 visitors.

Project need: \$19,000

Region served: Yuma

Yuma Community Theater, Inc.

Funds will support the Summer Theater Arts for Growth and Education program, providing classes and workshops on technical theater, stagecraft, and performance—culminating in a full-scale production.

Project need: \$18,000

Region served: Yuma

Yuma Orchestra Association

Funds will support the upcoming 49th and 50th Seasons, building awareness on the orchestra's longevity through marketing, and stressing the importance of the orchestra in relation to the cultural health of Yuma.

Project need: \$13,000

Region served: Yuma

Community

1N10 Inc.

Funds will support the development of social and emotional skills for self-expression, self-acceptance, and leadership development. More specifically, funds will support program expenses including supplies and staff time for activities at the Yuma Satellite.

Project need: \$422,143

Region served: Yuma

Arizona Town Hall

Funds will be used toward programmatic costs that include background reports, facilitation, publication of reports, and program organization, aiming to gather community residents, inform them of relevant facts and best practices, and facilitate discussion that creates a consensus of solutions and commitment to action.

Project need: \$5,000

Region served: Yuma

Aviva Children's Services

Funds will support the Holiday Gift Drive for children in foster care, providing gifts during the holidays. Gifts include basic needs items like underwear, socks, pants, shirts, dresses, school supplies, cribs, and beds. Last fiscal year, 109 children in foster care in Yuma County were served.

Project need: \$5,000

Region served: Yuma

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley (BGCAZ)

Funds will support trained staff members in providing academic support, health and wellness activities, sports leagues, healthy snacks and meals, career exploration and workforce readiness through afterschool and summer programs.

Project need: \$524,077

Region served: Yuma

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

Funds will provide comprehensive support to families in Yuma, Arizona facing financial crises and eviction risks. This holistic approach empowers families to overcome challenges, prevent homelessness, and regain stability in their lives.

Project need: \$35,000

Region served: Yuma

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

Funds will provide comprehensive support to families in Yuma, Arizona facing financial crises and eviction risks. This holistic approach empowers families to overcome challenges, prevent homelessness, and regain stability in their lives.

Project need: \$35,000

Region served: San Luis

Child & Family Services of Yuma, Inc.

Funds will be used to paint the exterior and interior office spaces, creating a more pleasant and professional environment for clients and dedicated staff.

Project need: \$6,000

Region served: Yuma

Crossroads Mission

Funds will be used to purchase disposable food trays, bowls, cups, and plastic utensils, reducing the risk of contamination and maintaining food safety

Project need: \$50,000

Region served: Yuma

Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona

Funds will be used to help underwrite the costs of staff salaries, program materials, and uniforms and membership dues for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), helping girls build confidence, discover their passions and talents, and acquire transferable 21st century skills.

Project need: \$69,912

Region served: Yuma

Greater Yuma Port Authority

Funds will support facilitated trainings between State and Federal partners such as ADOT, USDA, Federal Motor Carrier Services (FMCSA), for commercial users and private industry.

Project need: \$100,000

Region served: Yuma

Hunter's Army, Inc.

Funds will provide financial assistance to Yuma County childhood cancer families in covering lost income of the child's parent/caretaker and covering rent/mortgage expenses.

Project need: \$2,000

Region served: Yuma

SCORE/Northern Arizona

Funds will be used to increase SCORE's total service to all underserved communities within northern La Paz and Mohave County for mentoring, recruiting and small business development.

Project need: \$15,520

Region served: La Paz and Mohave County

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, Yuma Conference

Funds will help with rent and utility bills, preventing eviction and shut off.

Project need: \$130,000

Region served: Yuma

The Center for the Rights of Abused Children

Funds will provide emergency legal aid for abused and neglected children in Yuma and neighboring areas through the Center for the Rights of Abused Children's Pro Bono Children's Law Clinic.

Project need: \$997,824

Region served: Yuma

The Strength & Unity Foundation, Inc.

Funds will support program costs that in return will empower low-income, foster-care children, and youth in the juvenile system by providing access to martial arts, sports, and fitness programs, to improve mental and physical health.

Project need: \$50,000

Region served: Yuma

United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO Arizona)

Funds will support programs and services for military families in Yuma through morale-boosting and family-strengthening programs such as an annual baby shower, youth education and enrichment programs, family events, special events, and holiday celebrations to support Yuma-based troops.

Project need: \$122,765

Region served: Yuma

Yuma Community Food Bank

Funds will support the Emergency Food Bag (EFB) program, aiming to ensure access to nutritious food, offering essential items designed to support balanced diets and alleviate financial strain to affected families.

Project need: \$2,327,123

Region served: Yuma

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

Funds will purchase an all-weather exterior sound system that will transport visitors back to the 1890s to experience life in prison through the sounds of rattling balls and chains, voices of guards shouting orders, and tunes of the Vaudeville Prison Band.

Project need: \$3,000

Region served: Yuma

Education

Arizona Business & Education Coalition

Funds will support the ACED Project in Yuma County that aims to increase the use of Virtual Reality (VR) headsets/curriculum, serving 4,800+ students per day each semester during the school year.

Project need: \$224,500

Region served: Yuma

Arizona Business & Education Coalition

Funds will support the Gadsden Elementary School District in leasing Virtual Reality (VR) headsets/curriculum being utilized in middle school classrooms through the ACED Project.

Project need: \$181,000

Region served: Gadsden

Arizona Western College Foundation

Funds will be used to purchase a playground shade at the AWC Dr. Kathryn A. Watson Child Development Learning Lab for the Toddler Area, providing sun protection for children and for playground equipment. Remaining funds will be used to buy operational supplies needed in the preschool classroom.

Project need: \$ 9,980

Region served: Yuma

Center for the Future of Arizona

Funds will bring together K-12, postsecondary, and industry partners to develop, implement, and scale college and career-connected healthcare pathways, including career exploration, early college programs, and work-based learning to support students' transition from education to healthcare careers.

Project need: \$3,111,623

Region served: Yuma

Dorothy Hall PTO

Funds will cover transportation costs for this year's 5th grade class trip to Friendly Pines Science Camp in Prescott aiming to reduce the out-of-pocket cost of the trip to a level that is affordable to all students' families.

Project need: \$23,200

Region served: Yuma

Elevate Southwest

Funds will support the commitment to broadening reach and influence by investing in advanced production equipment, aiming to make the podcast more engaging and accessible, particularly for our primary audience—students who are exploring their futures in the STEM field.

Project need: \$10,000

Region served: Yuma

ESL Yuma

Funds will support a project goal of being able to fund every person's education, alleviating financial worries. More specifically, funds will purchase an audio language lab, students' classes, textbooks, and materials.

Project need: \$8,000

Region served: Yuma

Gowan Science Academy

Funds will be used to cover transportation costs for Gowan Science Academy 8th grade students, enhancing their educational experience through real-world applications and community service opportunities.

Project need: \$700

Region served: Yuma

Hawk Wrestling Booster

Funds will be used to replace torn wrestling mats that are currently being used for practice and competition. The continuation of using these mats pose safety and health hazards.

Project need: \$12,000

Region served: Yuma

Junior Achievement of Arizona - Southern District

Funds will provide the JA Inspire program to Kofa and Gila Ridge High Schools at no cost. JA Inspire aids 700 Yuma students by connecting them with careers and employers that guide them in aligning their interests and skills with future opportunities.

Project need: \$13,600

Region served: Yuma

SARSEF - Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation

Funds will be used to conduct a Yuma Science Fair Director Conference. SARSEF and the Yuma Science and Engineering Expo will partner to solicit advice and input from the community and recruit attendees at the Yuma Science and Engineering Expo February 13, 2025, then hold the Fair Director Conference in August 2025.

Project need: \$10,000

Region served: Yuma

Somerton Adult Education

Funds will be used to replace laptops experiencing audio issues when presenting lessons to students, allowing for better instruction and efficient learning. Funds will also repair old, cracked, and stained flooring with wishes to repurpose the space as a classroom, servicing more students.

Project need: \$770

Region served: Yuma

The Freedom Library, Inc.

Funds will be used to purchase books, materials, and cover operational costs, with the purpose of fostering an understanding of liberty among individuals ages eight and older by teaching the U.S. Constitution and economics, ensuring the continuation of individual liberty for everyone.

Project need: \$16,000

Region served: Yuma

United Way of Yuma County

Funds will support the BizKidz program, aiming to educate 4th and 5th graders on how to manage bank accounts, expose students to different career paths, and gain essential life skills that will position them for success.

Project need: \$51,500

Region served: Yuma

Wellton Elementary School

Funds will be used to purchase materials or any foreseen expenses for the preschool class such as training, employment or toys/shelves.

Project need: \$76,000

Region served: Yuma

Yuma Catholic High School

Funds will be used to implement additional campus safety measures by installing a security gate at the entrance of our campus.

Project need: \$40,312

Region served: Yuma

Yuma County Education Service Agency

Funds will be used to celebrate teachers and purchase books for their classroom libraries.

Project need: \$13,500

Region served: Yuma

Environment & Animal Welfare

Purr Project Animal Rescue

Funds will be used to purchase an automobile to transport our furry friends across Yuma County, to and from adoptions, foster homes, and vet visits.

Project need: \$11,800

Region served: Yuma

Soldier's Best Friend

Funds will support the pairing of Yuma County veterans with combat-related PTSD/TBI with vetted rescue dogs, training until the dogs qualify as service/therapeutic companion dogs, and ongoing support in managing symptoms. Funds will help cover the costs of a contract dog trainer, and dog training equipment and supplies.

Project need: \$47,000

Region served: Yuma

Vida Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

Funds will be used to develop a user-friendly platform, offering comprehensive information, volunteer opportunities, and streamlined donation options to support our mission.

Project need: \$8,650

Region served: Yuma

Healthcare

Angel Heart Pajama Project

Funds will provide 200 children served by the Safe House Shelter with a new pair of cozy pajamas so they can be warm and have a good night's sleep.

Project need: \$ 162,994

Region served: Yuma

MIKID - Mentally Ill Kids In Distress

Funds will provide a shaded structure at its Yuma office, helping kids with behavioral health challenges enjoy the positive benefits of outdoor play while giving them a safe and cool place to rest and eat.

Project need: \$38,362

Region served: Yuma

OCJ Kids

Funds will be used to help OCJ Kids provide services to foster children and teens before, while in, and as they prepare to exit, foster care, aiming to improve the health, well-being, and lives of foster youth in Yuma County.

Project need: \$104,665

Region served: Yuma

Raising Special Kids

Funds will provide 100 families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs with information, training, resources, and support to learn about their child's disability, how to advocate for their child, and tools to navigate early intervention and healthcare systems.

Project need: \$150,000

Region served: Yuma

Raising Special Kids

Funds will provide at least 35 families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs with parent-to-parent support, information, training, resources regarding their child's disability, how to advocate for their child, and tools to navigate early intervention and healthcare systems.

Project need: \$150,000

Region served: San Luis

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona

Funds will support families from Yuma County whose critically ill or injured child requires medical treatment in the Valley. Additionally, the program provides meals and other amenities, making our House a "home away from home" at no cost, for the duration of their child's treatment.

Project need: \$2,693,363

Region served: Yuma

SAWS-Southwest INC

Funds will be used to purchase and install wooden wheelchair ramps to the exterior of applicants' homes, providing freedom to low-income, permanently disabled individuals in Yuma County. These ramps will cost between \$1,000 – \$2,000 each, with 6 applicants awaiting funding.

Project need: \$2,500

Region served: Yuma

Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired

Funds will support the Health and Wellness Program, aiming to benefit blind seniors by providing physical activity training and skill development. More specifically, funds will purchase accessible health monitoring devices for seniors to self-monitor their own health.

Project need: \$52,235

Region served: Yuma

Special Olympics Arizona

Funds will help empower Yuma schools to create inclusive campuses —school environments where students with intellectual disabilities have a meaningful place alongside their peers through sports, leadership, and school belonging.

Project need: \$132,917

Region served: Yuma

The Hansen House

Funds will support caregiver staff salaries and operating expenses, making hospice care a viable option for terminal patients in Yuma regardless of their socioeconomic status, and helping families of the terminally ill with emotional support.

Project need: \$209,399

Region served: Yuma