

PINAL COUNTY NETWORK NEWS

Featuring items of special interest to organizations and individuals working to improve the lives of people in our County. Published and emailed by Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA), with support provided by Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services and Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

By Channel 12 News

ADOH Programs Administrator Kathy Blodgett shared with **12 News (KPNX-TV, NBC)** viewers how individuals can access federal ADOH weatherization funding to create a more energy-efficient home. To find the provider for your area in Arizona, visit bit.ly/3JC5hK3, apply, and, if the household is income-eligible, they will be able to schedule a personal in-home audit.

With the additional \$47.5 million in Federal weatherization funding, ADOH will be able to help make more than 3400 Arizona homes more energy efficient. The funding can be used for new HVAC systems, insulation, duct work, appliances, sealing and more. Learn more about how you can receive this weatherization funding on ADOHr website: housing.az.gov.



The federal programs can help save the average working family up to \$1,000/year on energy bills. \$9 billion is available in consumer rebates to help low-income families switch to electric appliances and afford the cost of energy-saving home retrofits.

Among the events highlighted were consumer energy-saving programs in two Biden Administration Acts, ADOH is discussing the expansion of the Weatherization Assistance Program. ADOH Director **Joan Serviss**, announced that ADOH WAP received an additional \$47.5 million to deliver economic and consumer benefits directly to Arizona communities.

This is the first ADOH-funded project to utilize Arizona's new STATE tax credits and will bring 368 new affordable homes to the West Valley!
<https://lnkd.in/g/vfRrrNC>

ADOH Deputy Director Ruby Dhillon-Williams and staff attended the Urban Land Institute 'Trends' Day at the J.W. Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix. The annual event brings together more than 1000 real estate, land use, and government housing experts to shape the future of housing. This year, the conference is taking a deep dive into the various solutions to the affordable/supportive housing crisis in Arizona.

Mary Lou Rosales, Executive Director for Community Action Human Resources Agency is a recipient of these funds and is looking forward to expand the program in Pinal County. Anytime we can do more for the most vulnerable, especially limited income homeowners, we are so pleased to take the opportunity and help them save on energy bills. To apply call 520-466-1112 to request an application and additional information.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE MAIL

Service for Homeless With No Mailing Address

Mail can be received at the following locations:

- CG Helps, 360 E. 6th St., Casa Grande, AZ 85122 (Register with Vangie to begin service.)
- Genesis Project, 564 N. Idaho Rd., Suite 5, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 (Register with Trinity to receive service)

Let lrushing@cahra.org know if other agencies also offer mail service for those with no address.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER



The Pinal County Network News is a monthly publication. If you wish to advertise meetings, events, items of interest, etc., please submit material by the 25th of the previous month to: lrushing@cahra.org.



CARE NETWORK MEETING

Regular Meeting Date/Time:
Second Wednesday of each month @ 9:00 a.m.

Location:

Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens,
8969 W. McCartney Road, Casa Grande

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Information on the speaker presentation was not available at the time of this publication.



PINAL COUNTY NETWORK

Regular Meeting Date/Time:
First Wednesday of each month @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Coolidge Police Department,
911 S. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge, AZ

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Information on the speaker presentation was not available at the time of this publication.



CAHRA'S HOMELESS PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

The weather has become chilly for those we serve who are experiencing homelessness in Pinal County. CAHRA Staff is reaching out to communities throughout Pinal County to help with donations of blankets, jackets, and socks.

Both new and gently used items are welcome.

Drop off locations are setup at CG Helps Resource Center located 350 E. 6th Street, Casa Grande and CAHRA located at 109 N. Sunshine Blvd., Eloy.

For more information please call CAHRA at 520-466-1112.



DES CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

Did you know child care assistance is available for parents who are full-time students?

The Division of Child Care offers child care assistance for:

- Low-income working families
- Teen parents enrolled in high school, GED, ESOL, or remedial education programs
- Residents of homeless or domestic violence shelters
- Individuals who are unable to care for their children due to a physical, mental or emotional condition
- Individuals who are unavailable to care for their children due to participation in court-ordered community service or participation in a drug treatment program
- Individuals who are currently receiving full-time DES child care assistance who enroll in a full-time education or employment training program, and submit a work requirement waiver to DES, including proof of enrollment

Child care assistance is also available for grandparents and guardians:

- When the parent of the child is not living in the same home
- When the grandparent or guardian is engaged in an eligible activity
- Note: Only income received on behalf of the child is considered.

Child care assistance is available without regard to income for the following:

- DES Cash Assistance recipients
- Grant Diversion program for job search
- TANF recipients who are employed
- Referrals from a DES Jobs Program
- Referrals from the Arizona Department of Child Safety or Tribal Child Welfare program

Student parents attending school at a DES Higher Education Child Care Project (HECCP) community college or university may be eligible for child care assistance through one of these participating HECCP institutions:

- [Arizona State University](#)(link is external)
- [\(link is external\)](#)
- [Central Arizona College](#)(link is external)
- [Maricopa Community Colleges](#)(link is external)
- [\(link is external\)](#)
- [Northern Arizona University](#)(link is external)
- [Pima Community College](#)(link is external)

SOCIAL SECURITY COLUMN

By Jack Burns, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in AZ



HOW WE PROTECT YOU FROM MISLEADING ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Social Security works with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to protect you from scams that use Social Security as bait. **Section 1140 of the Social Security Act** allows the OIG to impose severe penalties against anyone who engages in misleading Social Security-related advertising or imposter communications. You can review Section 1140 at www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1140.htm.

For example, the OIG may impose a penalty against anyone who:

- Mails misleading solicitations that appear to be from or authorized by Social Security.
- Operates an imposter internet website or social media account designed to look like it belongs to or is authorized by Social Security.
- Sends emails or text messages or makes telephone calls claiming to be from Social Security.
- Sells Social Security’s free forms, applications, and publications without our written approval.
- Charges a fee for a service that Social Security provides free of charge without providing a clearly visible notice that Social Security provides the service for free.

If you receive a misleading or suspicious Social Security-related advertisement or imposter communication, please let us know immediately. Try to capture as much information about the communication as you can.

Here’s what you can do:

- For suspicious websites or social media accounts, please take a screenshot of the page. Please note the website address or social media link – and how you came across it.
- For emails and text messages, please capture the entire message and any message links.
- For U.S. mail solicitations, please retain the complete communication, including the outside envelope and all inserts.
- For telephone solicitations, please note the caller identification phone number and any company name or call back number that the caller or recorded message provides.

You can help us stop misleading advertising and communications. We encourage you to report potential scams to the OIG at oig.ssa.gov. You can also call our fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or send an email to OIG.1140@ssa.gov.

This information will help OIG locate the source of the suspicious solicitation or communication. You can also check out our publication, *What You Need to Know About Misleading Advertising*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf.

PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE DURING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH



April is Financial Literacy Month. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. Our online tools can help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your *Social Security Statement (Statement)* using your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Your *Statement* is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors’ benefits.

Our Plan for Retirement tool in your personal *my Social Security* account allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios. You can compare how different future earnings and retirement benefit start-dates might affect your future benefit amount.

Please tell your friends and family about the steps they can take to improve their financial knowledge by exploring their personal *my Social Security* account. If they don’t have an account, they can easily create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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STAY INFORMED WITH SOCIAL SECURITY’S TOP FIVE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



We strive to provide the public with accurate and helpful information. In addition to the resources available on our website at www.ssa.gov, we also regularly post useful information on our blog and on social media. We invite you to read our posts and share items of interest with your family and friends.

1. You can subscribe to our blog. We post articles about programs, policies, current topics, and new online services. Read more and subscribe at blog.ssa.gov.
2. You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/socialsecurity. You can also share Facebook posts with family and friends.
3. We have many informative videos on YouTube. Our videos cover online services, applying for retirement and disability benefits, Social Security-related scams, and much more.

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How Will Social Security Be There Through Your Life's Journey?



Securing today
and tomorrow

We provide **FREE** presentations for your staff. We will come to your location and talk about any of these subjects.

1. Social Security Administration – Overview of Benefits

Reviews all types of benefits available through the Social Security Administration, including SSI, disability, and survivors benefits.

2. What Women Need to Know

Explores Social Security topics particular to women, and provides a general overview of benefits.

3. Planning Your Retirement: What You Should Know About Social Security

A comprehensive look at Social Security benefits and the role they play in retirement.

4. Top Ten Social Security Myths

Explores common misconceptions about Social Security benefits.

5. Things You Can Do Online

Intended for those already receiving benefits, this workshop highlights services and information that can be obtained online through the Social Security website.

6. How Social Security Benefits America

Reviews the impact that Social Security benefits have on our society.

7. Retirement Estimator

Provides a process that pre-retirees can use to get realistic estimates of what their income needs will be in retirement, and explores potential sources of retirement income.

8. Medicare and You

An overview explaining Medicare benefits.

Contact Information:

Jack Burns

john.p.burns@ssa.gov

Social Security Administration
Public Affairs Specialist
Arizona

[SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.SocialSecurity.gov)

STATEMENT BY KILOLO KIJAKAZI, ACTING COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY, ON THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

The Biden-Harris Administration today released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The Budget details a blueprint to grow the economy from the bottom up and middle out, lower costs for families, protect and strengthen Medicare and Social Security, and reduce the deficit by ensuring the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share—all while ensuring no one making less than \$400,000 per year pays more in taxes.

“Our programs affect individuals throughout their lives: from birth, to entering the workforce, to facing a disability or loss, and to retirement. The broad and critical nature of our programs drives our request for the resources necessary to improve our service to the public.”

The President's FY 2024 Budget request for the Social Security Administration (SSA) proposes \$15.5 billion in discretionary budget authority. The Budget will:

- **Improve Service Delivery:** The Budget provides an increase of \$1.4 billion, a 10-percent increase over our FY 2023 enacted level to improve customer service at our field offices, State disability determination services, and teleservice centers for retirees, people with disabilities, and their families while maintaining the integrity of our programs. Each year, we process more than 6 million retirement, survivors, and Medicare claims and more than 2 million disability and SSI claims. The Budget supports increased staffing levels from FY 2023, allowing us to process about a half million more disability cases in FY 2024 than we completed in FY 2022 and significantly reduce wait times for those decisions.
 - **Advance Equity and Accessibility:** We are one of the most important anti-poverty programs in the country. We remain committed to administering our programs in a way that promotes equity and fairness. We are making it easier for people to access the services they rely on, including individuals experiencing homelessness, children with disabilities, and people with mental and intellectual disabilities. The Budget makes investments in these areas to support SSI outreach work, including collaborating with government agencies and other third-party organizations in local communities to provide convenient access to our services and ensure members of the public are aware of their potential benefit eligibility.
 - We are also committed to enhancing the diversity and richness of our workforce to strengthen and maintain an inclusive work environment that values individual differences and treats employees with dignity and respect; thereby, enriching our current workforce, which is driven by our public service mission. This Budget continues our efforts to hire and promote the Nation's best talent and build a diverse and representative workforce and ensure that all employees have equal opportunities to advance in their chosen careers.
- **Modernize our Information Technology:** The Budget continues investment in our information technology (IT) to reduce the burden on the public, modernize our website and online services, and provide an improved customer experience.
 - To accelerate our progress, the Budget includes \$50 million in dedicated no-year funding for our Benefits Modernization efforts. Our Benefits Modernization efforts will provide our employees with better technology tools to determine eligibility and process claims in order to better serve the public. The Benefits Modernization project is in addition to the efforts we are taking to sustain our systems.
 - **Provides National, Comprehensive Paid Family and Medical Leave:** The vast majority of America's workers do not have access to paid family leave, including three out of four private sector workers. Among the lowest-paid workers, who are predominantly women and workers of color, 92 percent have no access to paid family leave through their employers. As many as one in five retirees leave the workforce earlier than planned to care for an ill family member, which negatively impacts families as well as the Nation's labor supply and productivity. The Budget proposes to establish a national, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program administered by SSA. The program would: provide workers with progressive, partial wage replacement to take time off for family and medical reasons; include robust administrative funding; and use an inclusive family definition. The Budget would provide up to 12 weeks of leave to allow eligible workers to take time off to: care for and bond with a new child; care for a seriously ill loved one; heal from their own serious illness; address circumstances arising from a loved one's military deployment; or find safety from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The Budget would also provide up to three days to grieve the death of a loved one. The Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress to make this critical investment and strengthen America's economy.
- Building on the President's strong record of fiscal responsibility, the Budget more than fully pays for its investments—reducing deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade by asking the wealthy and big corporations to pay their fair share.

For more information on the President's FY 2024 Budget, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>.

**PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
KIDS & COMMUNITY KICKBALL EVENT
Friday, April 28, 2023**

The Pinal County Attorney's Office is partnering with Paladin Sports Outreach for the 2nd Annual Kids & Community Kickball Tournament. This event is going to be great fun with a little spin of competitiveness thanks to Paladin!

Since the event will be right in the heart of Anthem Merrill Ranch, 3103 N. Anthem Way, Florence, we will have families from Parkside which includes families with kiddos, and then the Sun City side which is a 55+ community. We would like to offer resources for both stages of life.

Vendor booths are free, please bring your own table, chairs, and tent. We are looking for raffle items for our guests, so if you have something you would like to donate, that would be great, but not required of course.

PCSO is also looking for folks to play in the tournament. If you know of a family or organization that would like to participate please share the link.

Here is the link to register as a vendor, individual player, or as a team.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf00sGRhAt3jTxIW3byr2YmL_QMFAeWUSyLNJ70Ro3vmgvLcQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

**AZGIVES
DAY -
APRIL 4,
2023**



One day out of the year, Arizona Gives allows non profit organizations to seek donations through their statewide, online campaign.

This year, the designated online campaign will take place on April 4, 2023. The Arizona Gives program is run by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits + Arizona Grantmakers Forum. The event was started in 2013 to connect people with causes they believe in and build a lasting, stronger spirit of philanthropy. Since its inception, Arizona Gives Day has raised nearly \$36.4 million for nonprofits statewide.

AZGives helps people find, learn about and contribute to the local causes they believe in. Non-profit organization can share their stories and engage the community through a unique online giving platform.

Registration was February 28. Call and ask if still possible. Participate Now! Champion your favorite causes with a personal fundraiser Make My Fundraiser Page! <https://www.azgives.org>

Agencies vying for funding through Arizona Gives include Against Abuse, CAHRA, Seeds of Hope, For Maricopa City Food Pantry, Superstition Community Food Bank in Apache Junction as well as other organizations in Pinal County. To see a complete list, visit [AZGives.org](https://www.azgives.org).

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 23-29, 2023**

**Kids & Community
Kickball Tournament**

**Friday, April 28, 2023 5 - 9pm
Anthem at Merrill Ranch - 3103 N. Anthem Way - Florence**

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT:

**Survivor
Voices**
Elevate. Engage.
Effect Change.

- Food trucks
- Vendors
- Fingerprinting
- McGruff the Crime Dog
- Games
- Snowcones
- Police Demos
- Prizes

In partnership with:



FOR QUESTIONS:
520-866-6627
latisha.joseph@pinal.gov



Scan To Register:



**ANTHEM
AT MERRILL RANCH**



This project is supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Kindergarten Readiness

Watch your child grow



What is Kindergarten Readiness?

Entering kindergarten is a big change for you and your child. It is an exciting time, and it also might be a little scary for you both. You can help by preparing yourself and your child for this big step well ahead of time. Kindergarten readiness refers to the developmental domains that contribute to a child's ability to adapt to the kindergarten classroom, which is often a new and unfamiliar environment. While there is no single agreed upon definition of Kindergarten readiness, we have prepared a few activities that can help get your child ready to succeed in school and life and become great learners, thinkers, and doers.

Ages
Birth-2 Years



Ages
2-3 Years



Ages
3-4 Years



Ages
4-5 Years



hello



AZ Gives day is April 4th. Please consider donating to Against Abuse, Inc.

Early Giving is open and you can donate between now and April 4th. www.azgives.org/againstabuseinc

AAI truly appreciates your kind generosity during this year's campaign.

Consider sharing the love: Please forward this to your email distribution lists, friends and family.

INVEST IN US!

Against Abuse, Inc. (AAI) provides trauma informed services and supports for victims of domestic and sexual violence, with a focus on safety and healing.

Your donation is so important and very much needed for victims and their children.

Donate to **AAI** at www.azgives.org/againstabuseinc

~Thank you for your donation~



For questions call (520) 836-1239



SPRING BOOK SALE

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Maricopa
Saturday, March 25
9am - 1pm**

Used Books • Puzzles • DVD's & More

Help us support programs at our Maricopa Library by Donating Books, Buying Books AND Becoming a Member of Maricopa Cultural Activity Center, Inc. dba FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - MARICOPA

All Book Sales are held at the MARICOPA Library:
**18160 N Maya Angelou Dr
Maricopa, AZ**

SECOND CHANCE SUCCESS SUMMIT

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) cordially invites you to this year's virtual **Second Chance Success Summit**. The Summit will be held on April 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Click here to Register: bit.ly/2023SecondChance

In commemoration of Second Chance Month, we are excited to have several Arizonans share their stories of reentry and recovery. Community organizations, second chance employers and other agencies will also provide information and data about the collective role in reducing recidivism in Arizona.

Given his commitment to reentry initiatives, Jeff Taylor, former Chairman of the Salvation Army Phoenix Advisory Board, will serve as our Master of Ceremonies and provide information about the local support of Second Chance efforts.

We look forward to your attendance at this virtual summit, commemorating Second Chance Month in Arizona.



HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES



SUPPORT CAHRA BY DONATING TO AZGIVES.ORG

Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA) has always been considered a “safety net” for individuals and families who need a hand up. The agency strives to help families meet their basic needs, some of which are food, shelter, and utility assistance.

Your donation is so important to us and is much needed as families continue to struggle to make ends meet.

Please send your donations to CAHRA at <https://www.azgives.org/CAHRAinPinalCounty>

Please feel free to give us a call should you have any questions at 520-466-1112.

AZGIVES Day 4/4/23

Project Connect

Friday, July 21st
9:00am - 12:00pm

St. Anthony's Community Center
150 N Drylake St.
Casa Grande, AZ 85122



Project Connect is a one-day, one-stop event to provide access to free services, resources and referrals for community members.

Free On-site Services

Hair Cuts

Housing Assistance

Vision Screenings

Employment Assistance

Tax Assistance

Heath Screenings

Identification Card(s)

And Many More!

An event brought to you by CAHRA, CG HELPS Coalition and Faith Alliance

SAVE THE DATE

More information will be provided at a later date.

Ending Poverty

In our community one day at a time.



RURAL ARIZONA ENGAGEMENT HOSTS

Pinal Resource Fair

FREE EVENT!

● RESOURCES ● FOOD ● KID ACTIVITIES

Sign up there for our Free Raffle!

**Saturday, April 15th
9AM - 1PM**

**Carr McNatt Park, 1115 N Brown Ave,
Casa Grande, AZ 85122**

Fun Van! **Event Partners**

Contact andreavarela@raze.org
for all vendor inquires

Continued from Page 3, Social Security Column

- We also offer some of our videos in Spanish. You can view and easily share our videos at www.youtube.com/SocialSecurity.
- You can join our many Twitter followers at www.twitter.com/socialsecurity. We use Twitter to announce new *my Social Security* features and other service or program changes.
 - We're also on Instagram. We share stories and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Check out our Instagram page at www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity.

Connect with us on social media to learn helpful information. Follow along and share our pages with a friend, neighbor, or loved one today. Check out all our social media channels at www.ssa.gov/socialmedia.



Promoting opportunities to Improve lives through Relationship and community development



Spiritual, educational and social support since 1993



Donations can be made between March 15 and April 4. Today is the day! Arizona Gives is up and running....

Every year nonprofits across Arizona unite on one day to promote our causes and raise funds. Last year nearly \$5 million was raised! When you make a donation through [azgives.com](https://www.azgives.com) you help Seeds of Hope continue our mission to improve lives right here in Casa Grande.

Visit our page at <https://www.azgives.org/seedsofhopez> and make a secure donation today!



Schedule your donation to be made between March 15 to April 4, 2023 by visiting our website or scanning the code! Help us exceed our Goal of \$85,000

April 4, 2023 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Silent Auction - Finger Foods - Desserts
Live Music

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CASA GRANDE
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

[AZgives.org/seedsofhopez](https://www.azgives.org/seedsofhopez)



24 HOURS OF GIVING.
A LIFETIME OF IMPACT.

FIND YOUR CAUSE AT [AZGIVES.ORG](https://www.azgives.org)

