

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DES Issues \$1.25 Million in Funding to Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Tribal Lands

Funding from the FY2025 budget will strengthen hunger relief in Rural Arizona and open additional food sites

PHOENIX (May 7, 2025) - The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today that \$1 million will be directed to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFBSA) to provide hunger relief for the Cochise County area. An additional \$250,000 was allocated separately for low-income individuals living on tribal reservations.

“In rural Arizona, there is a significant need to increase access to nutritious food,” said DES Director Michael Wisehart. “We are grateful for our partners at CFBSA and other local organizations, like the City of Bisbee, who have helped plan the best way to direct these funds to meet the needs of the community. Now, we are positioned to make a thoughtful impact in Cochise County.”

The \$1 million in appropriations will provide vital support to Cochise County residents, with 74% of the funding to purchase food for the area, and the remaining invested in staffing, tools, and resources, like costly appliances. Three new sites will begin operation, and two older facilities will be reactivated for use.

Since the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2024 to February 2025, the DES Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) has seen a steep increase in program participation in Cochise County, including:

- 40% increase in individual participants;
- 25% increase in total households served; and
- 137% increase in meals served.

Funding for this allocation will be made available in Cochise County communities immediately. All allocations for the \$1 million appropriated for this expense must be completed by the end of the State Fiscal Year 2025.

Visit our website for [more information on emergency food assistance](#), and [find food assistance near you](#).

###