



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 26, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Update on Federal Funding for Temporary Sheltering and Transportation Assistance for Legally Processed Asylum Seekers**

On February 16, 2024, I notified the Board of Supervisors of the impending exhaustion of federal funding that underwrites for the costs associated with the temporary sheltering and transportation assistance of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers (LPAS). At that time, I projected an end date to be on or around March 31, 2024.

On Saturday March 23, 2024, the President signed into law a \$1.2 trillion budget funding the federal government. This legislation includes \$650 million in appropriations for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the related Shelter and Services Program (SSP). It is precisely this agency and these programs that have funded our regional efforts to move LPAS quickly and efficiently through this community and onward to their final destinations in the interior of the country. This bipartisan achievement championed by many in the Arizona congressional delegation and the Governor underscores the critical nature of this federal investment to support of border communities.

Based on this federal action, discussions with staff at the Department of Homeland Security, CBP and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is our expectation that in the coming weeks we will receive formal notice of additional federal funds that will be directed to Pima County in support of our operation. When that occurs we need to be prepared to immediately and seamlessly continue those services that have allowed us to prevent street releases without the use of General Fund support.

I have sufficient confidence in the federal reassurances of funding, that I have directed County staff to work with Catholic Community Services (CCS) to plan for continued operations at the Ajo and Drexel facilities beyond the end of this month. This includes providing notice to supporting contractors and vendors of our need for their continued services. These contract extensions and associated funding will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for subsequent approval and action at later dates. I have also asked staff to work with CCS to re-examine the program delivery model to ensure that any further economies that are feasible and are identified can be implemented as we go into the new operating period.

I will provide an update to the Board of Supervisors as soon as we receive further communications from the federal government with the specifics of the award.

JKL/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator